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On the Cover *Photo illustration by Brian Kelly.*

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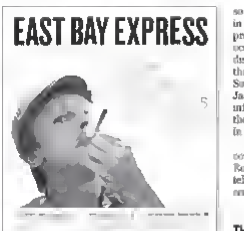
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LETTERS

Things Change

Why do private companies think they have a "right" to get special deals on public property? I thought those so-called entrepreneurs were makers, not takers. I guess when corporate welfare is on the line, things change.

John Seal, Oakland

Guilt by Association

This is the old "guilt by association" smear tactic. When I was young, it was used to claim that the civil rights movement was "Communist" since some Communist Party members were involved in donating to the various civil rights organizations and participated in organizing.

It didn't convince me then and it sure doesn't convince me now. It sounds like the usual nonsense promulgated by "reporters" who are really propagandists who will say anything to achieve a preferred goal. All that has changed is the preferred goal.

Nadja Adolf Newark

Shooting the Messenger

Thank you for the balanced and informative article on the curious case of Richard Aoki. As a scholar of late 20th-century political movements, I was struck by the vehemence of the denunciations thrown at Seth Rosenfeld that appeared in my email box. It's true that Rosenfeld had something to gain, perhaps modest increased attention for his book, but that sin was inconsequential compared to the mind-boggling exposition of high level conspiracy, of unethical practices revealed by his research. Yet that public good was swept aside in critical assertions ranging from racist bias (one writer was "very concerned that my political heroes believed a liberal white man publishing a book trying to make a news splash so quickly") to complaints with law enforcement in service of the One Percent (one wrote "It's probably no coincidence that the Aoki attack occurred at this particular time. It certainly distracted us ... from the true significance of this date — the assassination of our beloved Soledad Brother and Comrade George L. Jackson "another adding "... the timing for this information to emerge now is highly suspect in the context of a global uprising and the events in Anaheim.")

As this article reveals, the truth can be complicated, and even heroes have flaws. Rosenfeld spent years of work and sacrifice to tell this truth. He deserves an apology from his critics, not just humbled silence.

Llewelyn Cushing, Berkeley

The Denial Dilemma

It ain't just a river in Egypt. Nobody likes being taken for a fool. Who wants to admit that a trusted, loyal comrade was an informant? People go into denial rather than think their judgment may have been off or that they were fooled by a con artist. Not saying Aoki is any of those things — just explaining how denial works. Also, those things tend to reflect badly on the community, so people deny them rather than admit that these things happen to the best of us. Anyone can go into denial. It is human.

Holly Barnard, Oakland

Hold ACTC Accountable

As was pointed out, there are big differences of opinion within the county about what to fund. The Expenditure Plan attempted to paper them over with a Santa Claus "something for everybody" approach. That approach has worked with the last two plans, but it's apparently getting old, especially when applied to a permanent 1 percent sales tax (which is, of course, one of the most regressive kinds of tax). Rather than come back with a slightly jiggered rewrite, the Alameda County Transportation Commission needs to rethink how it does things, as does the legislature. It's also apparent from past performance that ACTC (or more accurately its past incarnation as the Alameda County Transportation Authority) is not the most trustworthy or accountable agency. It was successfully sued ten years ago for misspending sales tax funds.

Stu Flashman, Oakland

Murals Work

As the owner of a much-tagged building in a neglected corner of Oakland I can only marvel at the wrong-headedness of an approach to the problem of graffiti that forces its victims into the sisyphean chore of obliterating marks that inevitably reappear in a matter of days, if not hours, or face punitive fines from the City of Oakland. Involuntary servitude is unconstitutional and additional punishment for crime victims is unconscionable. Is this really a solution to the problem or just a novel way to pay for law enforcement efforts? What should we expect next — hefty fines for reporting crimes? That would make Oakland's crime statistics go down more than anything else that's been tried, although, like this misguided statute it wouldn't do anything about the underlying problems.

After struggling with near-daily tagging on my building, which seemed to have a magnetic attraction for ugly spray-painted artwork, I spoke with Ulysses, a local artist and arranged to have the problematic areas of the building coveted with a mural, clearing the idea with the City beforehand. I wondered if it would be immediately attacked, but to my surprise, it has been immune from tagging for five months, except for a couple of incidents, which were both instructive in their way. One bigger did vandalize the mural to a minor extent but Ulysses and his crew quickly restored it painting out the damage artistically. And when a rather pictorial bit of graffiti was painted adjacent but not over the mural they extended the mural with some extra painting that echoed the addendum's input. The mural seems popular with the neighbors, and while, like all art, it may not be to everyone's taste, it is a considerable improvement over the swatches of paint and intermittent tags that covered the space before.

Dan from the Community Rejuvenation Project made an interesting point in his letter. While anecdotes like this above abound, there has been no systematic study of the issue of "abatement" versus murals. But that doesn't seem like a very difficult thing to do if there's really any interest in the question on the part of the powers that be. Why don't we identify one hundred graffiti hotspots around the city and assign local muralists to paint art on fifty of them while pursuing the usual paint-out strategy on the rest, and keep track of the results? Periodic documentation would keep the issue fair, so that a last-minute paint-out wouldn't wipe it for the abatement team. I'd bet that despite what that LA official opined the money spent on painting over the tags will have been wasted, while the money dedicated to murals will have been well-spent.

Andrew Worby, Berkeley

.. Or Not

I delight in public murals. And once it seemed that graffitists avoided tagging and defacing public murals, giving support to the Community Rejuvenation Project's recent letters published by the *Express*. Sadly to Oakland this is no longer the case, as evidenced by this defacement of the public mural commemorating Jewish heritage (1400 Franklin St.), the Oaksterdam University mural (formerly at 1600 Broadway) and the fence on 6th (on Harrison just south of 14th Street). Maybe current graffiti abatement practices are insufficient as CPR argues but it seems doubtful that CPR's public mural program will be the answer to this vexing problem.

Jan Adler, Oakland

Corrections

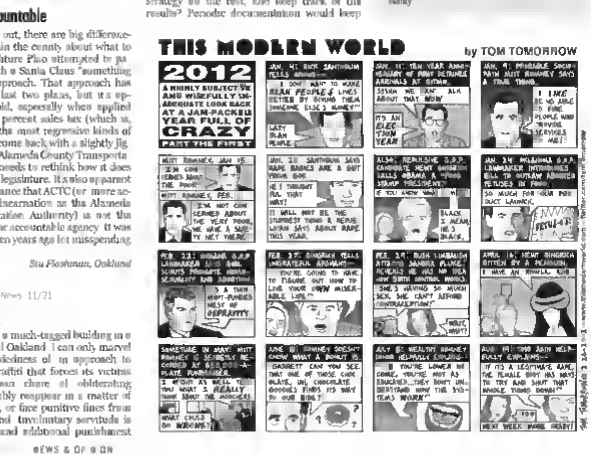
Our December 19 Year in Review story "The Flipping Frenzy" erroneously stated that Milo Zelikka worked on flips for Cornerstone Fund LLC and REO Homes LLC. She did not. ●

Letters Policy

Please provide your full name, address, and daytime phone number although we will only print your name, city, and affiliation. Send submissions to letters@eastbayexpress.com or Letters, *East Bay Express*, 620 3rd St., Oakland, CA 94607. Letters are edited for length and clarity.

THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW



WHY OAKLAND NEEDS A FEDERAL GUN CONTROL LAW

Assault weapons are already banned in California but they end up killing lots of people in Oakland because of lax rules in other states

By Robert Gammon



The recent school massacre in Newtown, Connecticut and the growing national debate over gun control may seem a bit foreign to many Oakland residents.

After all, assault weapons are already banned in Oakland and throughout California. In fact, stores are prohibited from selling any kinds of guns in the city. Nonetheless, assault weapons and handguns that can be outfitted with extended clips are plentiful and cheap in Oakland. And they're being used to kill numerous residents every year. In fact, the incredible proliferation of guns is one of the key reasons why the city's homicide rate is so high.

According to state criminal justice statistics, 1,651 people were killed with guns in Oakland from 1990 through 2010, including 406 who were shot dead from 2006 through 2010.

So where are those killing machines coming from? According to Oakland police, a substantial number of them are brought here illegally from neighboring states that do not have a ban on assault weapons — such as Nevada. Most states also have a major loophole in their handgun regulations. Although they require people to undergo criminal background checks to buy handguns at stores, they have no such rules for handguns purchased at gun shows. As a result, felons can easily purchase handguns legally and then bring them to Oakland or sell them here on the black market.

"In Nevada, if you have a state-issued driver's license, you can show it to a vendor at a gun show and walk away with a weapon," OPD Officer Eric Millena, a nineteen year veteran of the department, told the *Express* earlier this year. "And Reno's only four hours away."

According to the Coalition to Stop Gun Violence, California is one of only six states nationwide that require background checks on all firearms sold at gun shows — the others are Colorado, Illinois, New York, Oregon, and Rhode Island. As a result, about 40 percent of all guns legally sold in the United States change hands without background checks taking place. However, Nevada and many other states are unlikely to close their gun-show loopholes or enact assault weapons bans of their own.

And that's why a federal gun control law that would close the gun-show loophole nationwide and, in every state, ban assault weapons and ammunition feeding devices — including magazines, strips, and drums that hold more than ten bullets and can turn handguns into assault weapons — should be very important to the residents of Oakland. "From Oakland's perspective, those particular kinds of weapons really only have two uses — war and crime — and so these weapons have no legitimate place in civilian life," said Oakland Councilwoman **Rebecca Kaplan** who has been a leading advocate in the city for stricter gun-control laws and illegal weapons enforcement. "We need these weapons to be federally banned so as to limit them from getting here."

The illegal gun trade in Oakland is a burgeoning industry. In some areas of the city, particularly in parts of East and West Oakland, it's easier to buy a gun than to find a grocery store and handguns cost as little as $100. Street-corner gun dealing is increasingly starting to rival illegal drug sales and prostitution.

Although opponents of gun control laws contend that they have no impact on crime or on mass shootings like the one in Newtown, there's evidence that the nationwide assault weapons ban that was outlawed by US Senator **Dianne Feinstein** of California and was in effect from 1994 to 2004 helped impact violent crime and homicides in Oakland. It is generally recognized that Feinstein's assault weapons ban required a few years to fully take effect because of the massive number of guns sold before it was enacted. And according to state statistics, Oakland homicide and violent crime rates both dropped substantially in the years afterward.

From 1997 through 2004 (the year Feinstein's law expired), Oakland averaged 87 homicides a year. Although high by any standard that average was much lower than in the years before the ban went into effect and after it expired. Before the ban, Oakland averaged more than 110 homicides annually. And after the ban expired, the city has averaged nearly 110 homicides each year. Likewise the city averaged 5,973 violent crimes a year from 1997 through 2004, and more than 6,800 violent crimes annually since the ban expired.

While there are many reasons why violent crime ebbs and flows in a particular city, the above numbers are eye-opening. It is also just plain logical that making it tougher to buy weapons in other states and bring them to Oakland will impact violent crime and homicides here.

Last week, President **Barack Obama** said he plans to introduce legislation in January that would ban assault weapons nationwide. And Feinstein has said that she will do the same. Her proposed legislation also includes a nationwide ban on extended clips that can hold more than ten bullets. "They're very much part of the problem," Kaplan said of the extended clips.

Any proposed federal ban also should include the closure of the gun-show loophole and the adoption of the universal background check requirement currently in effect in California. Last week, Assemblywoman **Nancy Skinner** of Berkeley also proposed a new law that would require the state to more closely track the sales of ammunition. Kaplan also said there needs to be a crackdown on the use "straw buyers" in which illegal gun dealers pay a young person with no criminal record to purchase guns at gun stores or gun shows in California or in other states so they can be sold later on the street.

In short, Oakland could benefit greatly from a nationwide crackdown on guns and more gun laws and enforcement in California. The city also desperately needs substantial federal intervention in the Oakland gun trade. We're in a major crisis and we need help, and it's not as if the federal government can't afford to do something. Imagine for a moment if the massive amount of money and resources that the Justice Department has wasted on the unnecessary crackdown on medical cannabis — on a product that has no real connection to violent crime — were instead directed to a war on illegal guns. What were to happen, it could actually save lives and make our streets safer at the same time. ●

Ali Winston contributed to this report.

Seven Days is culled from our news blog, 92510.

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LEGALIZATION NATION

THE 2012 LEGALIZATION NATION INDEX

A look back at a glorious (ignominious) year — in numbers.

By David Downs

5 percent to 45 percent: the margin by which Washington's legalization initiative 502 passed

55 percent to 45 percent: the margin by which Colorado Amendment 64 passed.

1 ounce: the amount of cannabis that is legal to possess for adults 21 and older in Colorado and Washington

0: the number of plants that adults 21 and older are legally allowed to grow in Colorado.

0: the number of plants that adults 21 and older are legally allowed to grow in Washington.

5: the amount of nanograms of active THC per milliliter of blood that now constitutes an automatic "driugged driving" conviction in Washington

$1.8 billion: the estimated amount that Mexican drug trafficking organizations will lose due to legalization of marijuana in one state, according to The Mexico Institute for Competitiveness

$300 million: the estimated police and court costs of 25 years of pot prohibition in Washington, according to the Marijuana Arrest Research Project.

$60 million: the estimated amount of revenues and savings each year generated for the state of Colorado from regulating marijuana like alcohol, according to the Colorado Center on Law and Policy

$133: the estimated cost for an ounce of legal marijuana in Colorado

$12: the estimated cost per gram of legal cannabis, including taxes, in Washington, according to state figures.

100: the estimated number of pot growers that will receive state licenses in Washington

328: the estimated number of legal pot stores that will open in Washington

167,000: the estimated pounds of legal pot that will be consumed annually in Washington.

363,000: the estimated number of customers who will buy cannabis each year in Washington.

$1.9 billion: the estimated amount of taxes collected from legal marijuana sales in the next five years in Washington

64: the percentage of Americans who think pot policy should be left up to the states, according to a Gallup poll released in December 10.

51 percent to 44 percent: the margin by which Americans favor pot legalization, according to a Quinnipiac University poll.

67 percent to 29 percent: the margin by which 18- to 24-year-olds in the United States support pot legalization according to Quinnipiac

167 million: the number of Americans age twelve or older who used marijuana at least once in the month prior to being surveyed in 2012, according to the National Institutes of Health.

71: the percent of US tenth graders who say pot is easy or fairly easy to obtain, according to the NIH

2,500 to 5,000: the estimated amount of marijuana in metric tons consumed by Americans per year, according to the RAND Drug Policy Research Center

$10: the most common price Americans pay for pot according to RAND

$24 billion: the DEA's annual budget

9,236: the number of budgeted Drug Enforcement Administration full time equivalent positions.

757,969: the number of marijuana related arrests in the United States in 2011, according to the FBI

43: the percentage of marijuana-related arrests in the US that were for simple possession.

586,380: the number of New York Police Department arrests for pot possession from 1996 to 2011, according to Human Rights Watch.

8:1: the ratio of blacks arrested for pot possession in New York compared to whites, according to Human Rights Watch.

700 to 1,000: the number of patients per day at Harborside Health Center in Oakland.

112,000: the number of patients registered at Harborside Health Center in Oakland.

1 per 4,000: the average number of pot arrests per days of use in the United States, according to RAND

1: the number of arrests at Harborside's location over a four-year period, according to the Oakland Police Department

$1.8 billion: the size of the US Justice Department's asset forfeiture fund in 2011, according to the US General Accounting Office.

100: the number of employees who will lose their job if US Attorney Melinda Haag closes Harborside Health Center

1: the Controlled Substance Schedule level for cannabis under federal law, meaning it has no medical use and a high potential for abuse.

6,630,597: the number for the US Department of Health and Human Services' patent on "Cannabinoids as antioxidants and neuroprotectants ... in limiting neurological damage following ... stroke and trauma, or in the treatment of ... Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease and HIV dementia."

81: the number of blunts Snoop Lion (né Dogg) reports smoking per day

7: the number of days per week Snoop Lion says he smokes 81 blunts.

472: the number of dispensaries in Los Angeles

25 to 30: the percentage of medical cannabis that fails USDA cleanliness standards according to The Weed Shop

70,000: the number of signatures turned in for a ballot measure that would regulate LA dispensaries.

14,991: the number of California juvenile arrests for pot possession in 2010 according to the Center on Juvenile & Criminal Justice.

5,831: the number of California juvenile arrests for pot possession in 2011.

61: percent decline in California juvenile pot arrests, thanks to state Senator Mark Leno's bill that made possession an infraction, according to the Center on Juvenile & Criminal Justice ●

David.Downs@gmail.com

This column is culled from our blog of the same name.



The data also raises questions as to whether the island's soil can be cleaned up

ECO WATCH

ALARMING RADIATION LEVELS FOUND ON TREASURE ISLAND

The Navy's own data suggests that island residents were at risk of radiation exposure

By Ashley Bates

Navy officials have repeatedly downplayed the risks of radiation exposure to current and former residents on Treasure Island. But data from the US Navy shows that measurements taken in former residential areas of the island revealed pockets of alarmingly high radiation levels. The data, which the Express obtained as a result of a public records request, also raises questions as to whether former residents were in fact, exposed to high amounts of radiation and whether soil on the island can be sufficiently cleaned up for the massive "eco-friendly" housing and commercial development planned for the former Navy base.

"That's a surprisingly high measurement," said physicist Steve Fetter of the University of Maryland School of Public Health in response to the Navy's disclosure of the highest yet surface radiation reading measured on the island — 0.08 rem/hr (Rem/hr is a measurement known as a dose rate of the biological effects of being exposed to radiation.) "If you were standing above that spot for a long time, it would be hazardous. But the [radiation] dose rate would drop off pretty quickly as you moved away — unless there were other nearby objects also emitting radiation."

A 2005 Navy document called the Radiation Protection Plan also revealed troubling data on the concentration of radionuclides in the soil readings of "up to 4,000 picocuries per gram" were taken on the island "but were limited to certain hotspots. For some perspective closed military installations in California that had been contaminated with radioactive elements typically must be cleaned to a standard of two picocuries per gram in order to be considered safe. "If there was a high concentration of radionuclides in the dirt and people were inhaling or ingesting it," Fetter said "that would be very hazardous."

Despite the newly released data much is still unknown about the radiation levels on Treasure Island. For example very little information has been publicly released on the eight hundred-plus truckloads of radiologically contaminated soil that were shipped off the island in recent years. Shaw Environmental, the Navy's lead private contractor has received a Notice of Violation from the California Department of Public Health for its failure to properly collect and record this data.

David Brenner director of Columbia University's Center for Radiological Research, reviewed the Navy's Radiation Protection Plan which was prepared by Shaw Environmental. He noted the high toxicity of radioactive disks that have been found all over Treasure Island. According to the Navy, these octagonal disks emit contact radiation dose rates of up to 30 rem/hr, but more typically 0.1 to 0.7 rem/hr. "Had someone got hold of one of the metal disks and put it in his pocket for a few days," Brenner said "the outcome could have been very bad — significant radiation sickness or even death within a few weeks."

The origin of these disks is still a mystery, but they may have been used in nuclear detection and decontamination trainings during the Cold War. The disks were disposed of in four pits on

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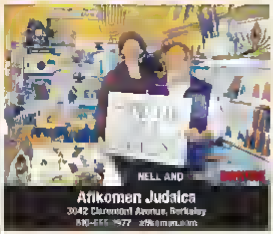
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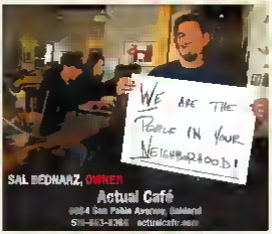
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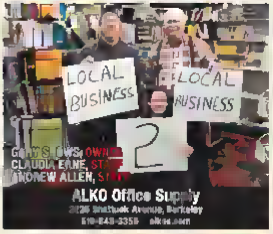
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the island. Condominiums that housed military families in the Seventies, Eighties, and Nineties were then built atop these pits. These areas were only recently fenced off to protect the island's 4,000 current residents, many of who are low-income.

Brenner cited one silver lining in the radiation data, only a "comparatively small area of the island had "highish dose rates." But a key question, he said, is, "How many hours did anyone spend in this region near Building 1321?"

Building 1321 is a former condominium complex for military families located in the scenic seaside area on Westside Drive. During excavations in 2009, the 0.08 rem/hr reading was taken just west of this building about one foot from one or more of the radioactive disks. The reading appears to have been taken in the building's front yard. The highest concentrations of radioactive soil were also found here.

Brenna Summers, who grew up on the island, believes that she may have played in this soil. Summers was about two years old when her parents and three siblings moved to Treasure Island from Hawaii. They lived on the island from about 1972 to 1976, and again from 1981 to 1985. During both periods, her family unknowingly lived atop the site of the former mock-up nuclear decontamination-training ship called the *Fundamentum* and alongside one of the pits where the radioactive disks were buried. Her family resided in Buildings 1315 and 1316 — just a couple doors down from Building 1321.

Summers remembers that there used to be a playground and a park with picnic benches adjacent to Building 1321. "We were all digging in there and eating the sand, and doing everything that little kids do," she said. The playground featured a turtle sculpture that kids could crawl underneath.

Two weeks ago, Summers read previous *Express* investigations of contamination on Treasure Island (see "A Radioactive Isle," 9/5 and "Contamination Destination," 10/31). She wonders if the combination of radioactive and chemical contamination on the island might explain the health nightmares that she and her family have suffered over the years. "We've been sick with all these different random, weird things for so long," she said, "and we've just been looking for answers."

According to Summers, her sister Misty, who was seven when their family came to Treasure Island, had an emergency hysterectomy at age eighteen to remove a pre-cancerous mass from her uterus, fallopian tubes, and ovaries. Her other sister, Heather, was pregnant while living on the island, Heather's son was born with birth defects. Summers' children were later born with birth defects as well. Summers' mother and sister Misty survived skin cancer. Her brother Brian had a pre-cancerous growth removed from his face. Everyone in the family has suffered some form of autoimmune disease. All the pets the family owned or took care of while living on the island — including eight dogs and three cats — died of cancer. With the exception of one cat, all the pets died between the ages of one and six years old.

At least thirteen cancer survivors and at least two people who died of cancer lived in homes atop or bordering the pits where the radioactive disks were buried. Breast cancer survivor Kim Kellner (who is featured in the video accompanying the online version of this article) grew up next door to the Summerses at 1317 Gateview Avenue. Kellner and her childhood friends are currently tracking down their former neighbors and classmates in an effort to determine exactly how many of them developed cancer. Many other past residents are likely unaware of contamination discoveries on Treasure Island, as the Navy has not contacted any of them.

Current residents, unconvinced by public officials' repeated assurances that they are safe, have recently formed the Treasure Island Health Network (TIHN2012.net). Summers completed one of the group's surveys designed to assess health trends among past and current residents. She said that current residents have some of the same early health issues that her family suffered — including bizarre rashes, breathing trouble, and bald spots. These particular problems dissipated after the Summers family left the island.

Many types of man-made radioactive chemicals — including at least 24 chemicals of present concern on Treasure Island — can cause both minor and serious health effects. Additionally, cancers, genetic mutations, and birth defects are all linked to radiation exposure. However, even if an epidemiological study of Treasure Island residents were conducted, causality would be extremely difficult to establish because all these health problems also occur among people who are not exposed to contamination.

For example, about 45 percent of the general population will ultimately develop some form of cancer, irrespective of radiation exposure. Brenner, of Columbia University's Center for Radiological Research, said that a very rough rule of thumb is that each 100 rem of total long-term radiation exposure will add an additional 8 percent risk of cancer in one's lifetime. Individuals exposed at younger ages are at greater risk. To get a rough estimate of the risk to people exposed as children, Brenner advised increasing that risk estimate by about 25 percent per 100 rem. Thus, assuming that Summers and her siblings were exposed to a total of 100 rem of radiation over their eight years on the island (which is unknowable with current data), Brenner said they would have a "very approximately, 60 percent chance of developing cancer during their lifetime — the normal 45 percent plus an additional radiation related 15 percent." This risk would be greater if Summers inhaled or ingested a concentrated amount of radioactive dirt.

Without more information from the Navy, it's impossible to know if the playgrounds, parks and soil atop the disposal pits posed serious dangers. The Navy has vaguely indicated that higher readings were found in "limited locations where radioactive material was co-located and buried below ground or where individual commodities lay near the surface." ("Commodities" is the Navy's preferred term for solid radioactive objects.)

Meanwhile, Summers is redoubling her efforts to monitor her own health, including getting her moles removed at the earliest possible sign of pre-cancerous cells. "If we were to find out that all these different illnesses that we had could be traced back to [Treasure Island], it would be kind of bittersweet — because we would finally have an answer, which is nice, but then the answer is not so nice," she said.

"I'd like to know what I can expect in my future."

Visit EastBayExpress.com to view a video accompanying the online edition of this article.

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Andrea Arnold's *Wuthering Heights* updates Emily Brontë's 1846 novel for a 21st-century audience

Generation Genre

The ten best movies of 2012.

By Kelly Vance

It was a fair-to-middling year at the movies by ordinary standards but 2012 also had a hidden dimension that's cause for celebration. A gratifying number of talented filmmakers from around the world has decided — no doubt at one of their secret meetings — to forsake what we like to call White Elephant projects and similar as-for-and-once, front loaded concepts, in favor of the relatively uncomplicated field of genre movies. Westerns. Horror flicks. The perennially popular crime thriller. Disaster pics. Sports comedies. Even the car chase quickie has been revived. What a wonderful way to get back to the basics.

You could skip ahead a few paragraphs and read all about this promising new development but than you'd miss the triumphant entry into the Hall of Mirrors of the Ten Best Movies of 2012. They are in no particular order:

Léos Carax' *Holy Motors*
Quentin Tarantino's *Django Unchained*
William Friedkin's *Killer Joe*
Craig Zobel's *Compliance*
Peter Nicks' *The Waiting Room*
Andrea Arnold's *Wuthering Heights*
Todd Solondz' *Dark Horse*
Ben Lewin's *The Sessions*
Ursula Meier's *Sister*
Ted Kotcheff's *Wake in Fright*

Bright-eyed culture hounds will see at once that at least three, maybe four of this Ten Best qualify as genre staples. *Django Unchained* as a hybrid of Western and plantation slavery exploitationer. *Killer Joe* a salacious crime thriller and the revived *Wake in Fright* as a difficult-to-pigeonhole Australian nightmare odyssey concentrating on drunkenness, humiliation and cruelty to animals. Think of these as the anti *Grand Atlas*, or perhaps as the illegitimate bohemian sons of a stuffed object Part like *Life of Pi*.

The Waiting Room may be the very best film of the year. It is certainly the most important in terms of immediate real world impact and the neglected art of speaking truth to power. The emergency room of Oakland's Highland Hospital is the ideal place to witness dozens, hundreds, thousands of routine everyday life-or-death dramas as they fit by our eyes courtesy of documentary filmmaker Peter Nicks. Instead of lacing it up with a tufted TV-special-type cast of actors, Nicks gives it to us straight with real people, in classic fly-on-the-wall cinema-verité style, starring the worried father and his very sick little girl; the poor guy trying to fix his testicular cancer on the cheap; a diabetic senior; a philosophical doctor doing his best to avoid talking about economics in a medical setting; and Certified Nurse Assistant Cynthia Y. Johnson, the doorkeeper, a triage nurse in charge of putting band-aids on souls, the original angel of mercy. Filmed over a five-month period in 2010, the doc resonates with humanity in the midst of this country's health-care debate. With any luck, *The Waiting Room* will be able to find audiences long after fluffier entertainments have been forgotten.

Need more social problems? *Compliance*, *Dark Horse*, *The Sessions* and *Sister* cover the bases — docile submission to authority, the misanthropic antics of a man-child, a paralyzed individual seeking physical love from a sex surrogate and the lowly career of a juvenile thief, respectively — with a maximum of style. It's the cinematic style and bravura out the therapeutic angle, that makes these generally overlooked indies so memorable.

Dark Horse writer-director Todd Solondz once again takes us to his beloved New Jersey hinterlands where a thirtyish schlub named Abe Wertheimer (in a miraculous performance by Jordan Gelber) scoots around in his Hummer drinking Diet Coke, playing backgammon and fastening his attentions on a female version of himself named Miranda (Selma Blair) who also lives with her parents (Abe's are played devastatingly by Christopher Walken and Mia Farrow). Abe and Miranda don't exactly get along, but that's the least of their problems. Keep your eye on Donna Murphy as Marie, the office manager at Abe's father's business. She has one or two other dimensions, as does this excruciatingly funny character study by the maker of *Welcome to the Doll House*, *Happiness* and *Life During Wartime*.

We've reviewed *The Sessions*, *Sister* and *Compliance* at length in these pages. If the three have any commonality other than their shared social quotient it's their insistence on burrowing into marginal face-in-the-crowd characters and revealing what goes on beneath the surface. Writing and acting as always are the twin keys, with the trio of John Hawkes, Helen Hunt and William H. Macy converting a potentially mawkish situation into the sweetest of romances in *The Sessions*. Journeyman director Ben Lewin's late-in-life house run. Nothing at all sweet, but a whiff of redemption in the otherwise repellent duo of Kacey Mottet Klein and Léa Seydoux carrying on their sullen doomed version of class warfare on the poor downhill side of an Alpine ski resort in Ursula Meier's *Sister*.

Compliance is another kettle of fish entirely. Literal minded commentators have been tearing their hair out over the film's verisimilitude. Did this dramatized incident of an unseen voice convincing the employees of a fast food restaurant to humiliate themselves really happen or not? Please. It's a piece of fiction — a particularly well written one by filmmaker Craig Zobel who covered similar ground in *Great World of Sound*. Underlying the drama is a discussion about the nature of power, in those who exercise it and in those who acquiesce. The performances of Ann Dowd and Dreama Walker in the roles of the store manager and a victimized staffer are among the strongest of the year in film as is Pat Healy's as Officer Daniels. What's to be gained by watching these people squirm for ninety minutes? Insight into the rowdy depths of human nature, and maybe a clue to our own predicament. Rather we should ask what would be lost if artists like Zobel shied away from the story in the first place.

Restrictions are not usually fair game for Ten Best considerations but we had to make an exception for *Wake in Fright*: a singularly grotesque 1971 melodrama by Canadian fraternational director Ted Kotcheff. The story of John Grant, a solitary Australian Outback school teacher on vacation (English actor Gary Bond) and his bizarre layover in the town of Bundanyabba would require several psychological and zoological textbooks to adequately describe, but can be summed up

with two iron-clad caveats. Limit yourself to only two beers your first night in a strange town, and Never trust a sheriff. Peripatetic filmmaker Kotchieff's hermitic distillation of delineating madness cumbered with oppressive dry heat helped make *Wake in Fright* a landmark in the annals of Ozploitation shockeroos alongside such epics as *Razorback* and *Turkey Shoot*. And now it's back. But be warned: If the sweaty close-ups of Donald Pleasance don't put you off your popcorn, the grisly knock-down of a kangaroo hunt by a trunkload of beer-soldier sickers surely will. The film enjoyed a week or two at Landmark houses in this fall, but if it were up to us, *Wake in Fright* would be on permanent rotation in the Midnight Show Hall of Fame.

Wuthering Heights and *Killer Joe* also received lengthy reviews during the past year.

HOLY MOTORS IS TRULY CONVULSIVE. IT'S ALSO MADDENING, ELUSIVE, AND NAKEDLY JOYOUS. WHAT MORE COULD WE ASK FROM A MOVIE?

The former evidently struck some viewers as drastically dour, but for us Andrea Arnold's rethinking of Emily Brontë's tragic romance illuminates dark corners, and updates the 1847 novel in unmistakable fashion for 21st-century audiences finally ready to put 19th-century racism and misanthropy in a box and bury them forever. Director Arnold and writer Olivia Hetreed are fit to make their Heathcliff a newly freed slave stranded in the Yorkshire Moors through no ostensible act of kindness. It is Heathcliff's beloved Cathy, however, who wears the chains, shackled to her family's menfolk and her rich husband in turn. The setting is as chilly and forbidding with just as many expressive emotional overtones, as Cary Fukunaga's sterling *Jane Eyre* adaptation last year. Although both films were first released in the UK in 2011, *Wuthering Heights* took longer to reach us.

Killer Joe is the fourth pic to open this year to feature Matthew McConaughey, alongside *Bernie*, *The Paperboy* and *Magic Mike*. The real stars of this thinking-person's drive-in programmer however are director William Friedkin and writer Tracy Letts, adapting his own stage play. Sex, violence, dirty talk, dirty deeds, drumstick sucking, and an homage to John Steinbeck's *Of Mice and Men* all figure prominently in the story of a family of dolts luring a crooked cop to murder an inconvenient relative. But Friedkin is having too much fun toying with his cast — McConaughey, Thomas Haden Church, Gina Gershon, Emile Hirsch, and Juno Temple as the catalytic agent Dottie — to spend time worrying about things like underage sex and full-frontal female nudity. That's why the audacious, whole-heartedly vulgar *Killer Joe* arrived in theaters with an NC-17 rating. Friedkin served it up raw and we're still digesting it. A funky taste.

We spent the first ten minutes of *Holy Motors* hating it, until it dawned on us that just because writer-director Léos Carax jettisons most of the narrative niceties we use as a crutch it doesn't necessarily follow that the tale of the enigmatic Monsieur Oscar (brilliantly conceived by actor Denis Lavant) has no meaning. André Breton once declared, in his novel *Nadja*, "Beauty will be convulsive or will not be at all." That wily old Surrealist might find something to admire in the way M. Oscar, in a succession of outlandish personas, traverses the city of Paris dropping in on an increasingly weird series of tableaus that culminate in him going home to his lover, an ape. *Holy Motors* is truly convulsive. It is also maddening, elusive, and nakedly joyous. What more could we ask from a movie? The filmmaker offers his thanks to Georges Franju and Henry James in the final credits. Remember, animals are also the actress Édith Scob, veteran of Franju's *Eyes Without a Face* and *Judex*; Luis Buñuel's *The Milky Way*; Raoúl Ruiz *Marcel Proust's Time Regained* and Olivier Assayas *Summer Hours* for her portrayal of M. Oscar's secretary, Céline.

We're reviewing Quentin Tarantino's *Django Unchained* in this issue's movie pages, so we'll merely reiterate that this delightfully salty neo-exploitation history lesson is Tarantino's finest since *Jackie Brown* and an important milestone in the careers of both Samuel L. Jackson and Leonardo DiCaprio.



Todd Solondz' *Dark Horse*, starring Selma Blair and Jordan Gelber, is excruciatingly funny.

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Make a flight in addition 1911 but it, released this year, was a total different animal. Or to borrow an adjective

Now about "genre." What is it, how can it recognize it when we see it and what does it mean to a film fan interested in digging a little deeper? From the early days of cinema more than a hundred years ago when motion pictures progressed from a purely documentary form to a more narrative one, the term "genre" has referred to clearly defined narrative themes that have proved resilient enough to establish their own turfs. Horror/fantasy and Westerns are two of the earliest genres and the former at least is still ubiquitous. Without getting too academic about it, a genre movie is one we can categorize quickly and describe in a short phrase: heist flick, young doctors in love, etc.

As with any critical shortcut, we have to be careful. It's wrong to reflexively label every movie according to its theme and then hurriedly file it away. For our purposes, genre refers to broadly accepted narrative archetypes rather than stylistic touches. The idea is not to establish some sort of critical pecking order but to recognize that movies travel the same thematic routes as novels or stage plays at pop music. Some take the road less traveled, others the well worn way.

Michael Haneke's *Amour* is an example of a film that tries to break out of ordinary arenas and tell its unusual story — of an elderly married couple dealing with illness and death — frankly and starkly (as opposed to, say, Andrew Dominik's *Killing Them Softly*, a familiar tale of thugs and hit men *Amour* is considered an art film mostly because of its style, although its subject matter is certainly non-commercial. *Killing Them Softly* however is a clear-cut genre flick because its story ingredients, regardless of the director's style, are so well established they're recognizable at first glance. Genre films continually run the risk of being labeled by lazy critics as clichéd at face value, on account of their subjects. But many first class filmmakers have honed their skills in genre, and many are still attracted to it.

The beauty of genre is that by working inside a set of well-established guidelines — for instance, that Westerns always have a man on a horse, or that in horror films something generally jumps out and goes *Boo!* — the creative filmmaker is set free to use his or her imagination in reinterpreting the form. What might have been limits for a lesser talent become points of departure for individual stylistic exploration like a musician improvising on a riff.

Thus, when Steven Soderbergh takes a whack at a martial arts actioner as in the case of *Haywire*, he's demonstrating that there are no "untouchable" categories in which a cinematic artist can work. A head buster spy flick can ultimately prove as meaningful as a "serious" issues-oriented star vehicle à la *Erin Brockovich*. Everything depends on the director's style, and of course the twin virtues of writing and acting.

As it turns out Soderbergh is responsible for a pair of genre pieces released in 2012. *Haywire* and the male-strip-club buddy movie *Magic Mike*. He wasn't the only blue-chip auteur "slumming" in the genre ghetto. Oliver Stone (*Savages*), David Koepp (*Premium Rush*) the big team of Michael Apted and Curtis Hanson (*Chasing Mavericks*) and Kathryn Bigelow (*Zero Dark Thirty*) all teamed in with a drug ring actioner a bike-messenger urban thriller a surf movie and a war movie, respectively.

Of course it could be said that certain directors like Christopher Nolan (*The Dark Knight Rises*) and Joss Whedon (*The Avengers*) don't make anything other than genre items but that's their decision. If David Cronenberg wants to float a social commentary (*Cosmopolis*) this time around instead of such gangster sagas as *Eastern Promises* or *A History of Violence*, that's his choice as well. The net effect is that genre is no longer the poor side of town. There are no longer any unfashionable genres only inept — or, conversely, well equipped — filmmakers. When Alfred Hitchcock in Sacha Gervasi's *Hitchcock*, wondered out loud "What if someone really good made a horror picture?" he was expressing a common artistic impulse for 2012. With Hitch's typical foresightedness, he sold it in 1959. We're finally catching up with him. ●

Editor@EastBayExpress.com

NEW YEAR'S EVE DAY EVENTS

RELIGION & SPIRITUALITY

The Great Beginning: Prayers Bless the Solstice,
Bring your drums and symbolism! Various events for a night of music and prayer for the New Year. With gathering facilitator Spring Wildheart, Co-Founder of Bioneers' Bay Area Mission Center. Mon. Dec. 31 & 1, p.m.-1 a.m., $28-50. East Bay Grounds of Religious Science, 4138 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 818-426-1800. Religious-Beyond.org

Phenomenon 2013: All Nations New Year's and Ecumenical Celebration The 19 Nation Artists and Healers create a unique ceremonial experience and invite participation in "spiritual cultures" of music, burlesque, Vedas, games, shamanic dances, ritual, storytelling, drumming, and the Midnight Magic Salute. Mon., Dec. 31 8 p.m.-1 a.m. $30-45. Freemason Hall, 358 27th St., Oakland. 919-464-5818, Humanistic-Hub.org.

FAIRS, FESTIVALS, & FIESTAS

New Year's and Party and Celebration with Gen. Gerber 3 A.m. women's New Year's Eve party with roasted hors d'oeuvres and a no-host bar. Belonging music by Neon Regency and The Party Members and Assoc-ion Ashe and Nana Cora, and dancing all night. Mon., Dec. 31, 8 p.m.-3 a.m. $135. Marine Memorial Women's Cultural Arts Club, 1650 Bucklend Blvd., Oakland. 510-339-8844

A New Year's Eve Party for the Whole Family Parents and children, Pleasanton games all night. With "quiet rooms" for sleepy young children and a countdown for each American time zone. Mon., Dec. 31, 5 p.m.-12:30 a.m. $29-25. Pleasanton Hall, at the Fairgrounds, 19875 San Ramon Ave., Pleasanton. Kelly: Hi Gen Gerber's Daughter's Mom-at-the-Beach.com

Noon's Eve & New Pachanga Pre-party kicking off Mexico country dancing, shopping, tequil music, and a full night of snacks and traditional dancing. Mon., Dec. 31 7 p.m.-1:30 a.m. Peña Pachanguera, 3630 Pawer St., San Francisco. 915-646-9618. PeñaPachanguera.com

NYE: Ink Featuring An international buffet, ballroom steps, and 1 champagne toast. A sea-level party with world fu, and and Valentine Music. Mon., Dec. 31 8 p.m. $20. Shadowcrane, 2587 Shoreline, Oakland. 925-864-1218

Oakland Oakland New Year's Eve 2013: With three ballrooms, ssssssstar jazz dance party, featuring two live shooters and one DJ. Casino-style games in the basket foyer. Two live dancing lessons, an open air champagne toast. Mon., Dec. 31 7:30 p.m.-1 a.m. $65-85. Scottish Rites Center, 1600 Broadway, Oakland. Call YMCA for more info 510-548-8320. Marriott.com.

Oakland New Year's Eve Featuring three champagne, a ballroom drop five music by the World Famous Bob & Kaye Show and dancing, dancing to on Noon Wells, and the Tenderoni Piano Man. Mon., Dec. 31 8 p.m. $110. Oakland ssssssss Center, 3903 Broadway, Oakland.

Ballroom Oakland Oakland NYE 2013 Prix fantasia and snacks, and enjoy Midnight pagan toast in Midnight. Kids welcome. Mon., Dec. 31 9 p.m.-$15.00. Fruitvale Station, Museum 1940 Bonnett, St., Alameda. 510-1349. FoodforFreeEat.org.

Save Tigers A New Year's Jamie, Jamie, Jamie! A New Years Eve Piano dance in support Pandemics Autism Network. Mon., Dec. 31, 9 p.m.-2 a.m., $5-15. The Yggdrasil Ballroom, 1010 Ballroom St., Oakland. Yggdrasil Ballroom.Blogspot.com

Sphinx Oakland NYE 2013 Featuring a four-course Vetted and live Vetted by Throat.



Lead Singer, Man., Dec. 31, 8 p.m.-12:30 a.m. $50 plus fee, $80 with wine pairings. Spice Monkey Cafe, 1088 Bonnett, St., Oakland 510-268-0178. SpiceMonkey-Cafe.com.

New Pioneer NYE Edition Sponsored By Swimsuit Issue, Kerbet champagne and Sasha Knives Inc. Featuring Music by Knee, Bi Pinch, and The Hooligan Lee. Mon., Dec. 31, 8 p.m. 510-375. Jack London Aquatic Center, 115 Embarcadero, Oakland. 510-208-6906. JLAC.org.

TRU NYE 3 Floors Featuring DJ Kaplas and Frankstine Stage dance-ssssss champagne toast, and more. Mon., Dec. 31, 9 p.m.-2 a.m. $25-35. Washington Inn, 480 10th St., Oakland. 510-452-1176.

USS Hornet's New Year's and Gala Extended Hours Time Passes, live music, ballroom by Jeremy Ford Artistic Instructor Bay Ssssssss, silent auctions, and a view of San Francisco's fireworks. Mon., Dec. 31, 7 p.m.-1 a.m. $45-85. USS Hornet Museum, 707 W. Hornet Ave. Alameda. 510-521-3448. USS-Hornet.org.

New Year's Miss-Retreat Ole Saturday sssssssss + Song and Dance in One Hour making a communal wreath while listening to music. On Monday watch it play, toast. "Starlord 2012: Esoteric, Symbology at a music and time session, and enjoy ssssssss and champagne at the new year. Sun., Dec. 30, 1-8 p.m., Mon., Dec. 31, 1 p.m.-midnight. $20 for Sunday, $78 for Monday, $98 for both, including Tarot. 2727 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-444-2784. IntelPsychology.



Symmetrical New Year's Eve at Oakland Featuring Passable snacks and one essential-tary drink, all with an a whole night of music by Stage-side band, an eleven-piece Afrobeat outfit from Brooklyn, Mon., Dec. 31 8 p.m.-1 a.m., $45. Parish, 3080 Telegraph Ave. Oakland. 510-652-4900. ParishOakland.com

Dupa New Year's Eve Four-course menu, Oakland, scallops with Pisco Sherry, and traditional sweet of Strawberry and mascarpone. Live ssssssss with surf-Rad guitarist, and a pianoplex and cumbia band. Mon., Dec. 31 8:15 p.m.-$99, plus $80 with wine pairings. Sake, 4263 Piedmont Ave., Oakland. 510-652-5676. RopaAdobo.com/dupa.

New Year's Eve sssssss Aaaaaa A Five-course family-style menu taking inspiration from the beloved birthplace town of Bologna. Mon., Dec. 31 8 p.m., $78. Incanto, 1 Western St. Oakland. 510-444-1213. For dates, com

New Year's Eve at Bay Grille A culinary-secretial Italian meal. "Celebrate new beginnings" Pizza and wine a la carte. With bite-boiled sausage, lentils, and potato puree the traditional meal of oslo to Portland, Oregon and ssssss for the coming year. Glasses of Featuring pellet of just $90.00. Mon. Dec. 31 8 p.m.-midnight. Bay Grille, 1999 5th St., Berkeley. 510-251-1906. BongoItalianGrille.com

NYE at and Glasses Pancake An elegant, inspired four-course meal from the Rioja over Boulevard, sssssssss, and champagne toast. Mon., Dec. 31, 5:5 7:30 p.m. $100 and $60. $100 with wine pairings. Boulevard, 1 Embarcadero Center, 1560 Oak View Avenue, Kensington.

KIOS

New Year's Eve Day Party Part New Years! ssssssss for kids. Oakland, crafting, ssssssss entertainment, and holiday ssssss. Mon., Dec. 31, 12-2 p.m., free with Pleasanton-Jeremiah Museum. Hall of and and 1 Centennial Dr. Berkeley. 510-642-6132. LawrenceHallofScience.org.

SPORTS & OUTDOORS

Crabby New Year's Eve With special activities Meet the Pier Oakland, events starts and animal tales in the snake room. Mon., December 31, 10:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Crab Cove, 1252 McKay Ave. Alameda. 510-562-7275. EBParks.org.

Shopping By Ice New Year Get off on the right foot in the new year with the Berkeley Parks Recreation Ice Rink. Ice skating, natural walk along the high ground of the Berkeley Aquatic Park. The rink will be available but there will be many closed. Meet at the ssssssss corner of Bonnett Ave and Eastshore Park in Kensington. Tue., Jan. 1, p.m., Inc.

CULINARY & WINE

ssssssss New Year's Eve at Ballroom by Berkeley Serving a four-course prix fixe menu with vegan and omnivore ballroom for each course and a wine by the glass pairing available for an additional $25.00. Menu highlights will include inside silver with Wild Mushroom and crab and Yolanda's Chef's ssssss fixe ssssss, and an aged guinea hen tamale. Mon., Dec. 31, 5:0 p.m. $85. Gather 2200 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-665-6404. GatherBerkeley.com

ssssssss New Year's Eve at Bonnett, Sushi Ssssss Serving the regular à la carte menu, plus, on a per-order basis, and different Asian Ballroom & a special ssssss menu, which will have four glass of sparkling wine upon entry and a DJ spinning house music from 10pm-1am. Mon., 31 8 p.m. 3 a.m. $35. Bonnett, 801 Washington St., Oakland 510-272-9810. BonnettSushi.com.

Celebrate New Year's and at Lake Chalet by ssssssss A holiday a la carte menu with special ssssss Oakland, Tagliatelle with Fagiolo-zucchini Oysters, Bonnett, New Year's ssssss with Rose Ballroom Crust: Garlic Sessions Crusted Ave Rose, Beef Wine ballroom sushi Ale and Honey Bay Forked Baby Rose Wine. Carrie ssssssss there a more ssssssss from the holiday menu and each ssssss a complimentary glass of ballroom wine. Mon., Dec. 31, 5-11 p.m. Lake Chalet, 1599 Lakeside Dr., Oakland. 510-208-5253. TheLakeChalet.com.



Symmetrical New Year's Eve at Oakland Featuring Passable snacks and one essential-tary drink, all with an a whole night of music by Stage-side band, an eleven-piece Afrobeat outfit from Brooklyn, Mon., Dec. 31 8 p.m.-1 a.m., $45. Parish, 3080 Telegraph Ave. Oakland. 510-652-4900. ParishOakland.com

Dupa New Year's Eve Four-course menu, Oakland, scallops with Pisco Sherry, and traditional sweet of Strawberry and mascarpone. Live ssssssss with surf-Rad guitarist, and a pianoplex and cumbia band. Mon., Dec. 31 8:15 p.m.-$99, plus $80 with wine pairings. Sake, 4263 Piedmont Ave., Oakland. 510-652-5676. RopaAdobo.com/dupa.

New Year's Eve sssssss Aaaaaa A Five-course family-style menu taking inspiration from the beloved birthplace town of Bologna. Mon., Dec. 31 8 p.m., $78. Incanto, 1 Western St. Oakland. 510-444-1213. For dates, com

New Year's Eve at Bay Grille A culinary-secretial Italian meal. "Celebrate new beginnings" Pizza and wine a la carte. With bite-boiled sausage, lentils, and potato puree the traditional meal of oslo to Portland, Oregon and ssssss for the coming year. Glasses of Featuring pellet of just $90.00. Mon. Dec. 31 8 p.m.-midnight. Bay Grille, 1999 5th St., Berkeley. 510-251-1906. BongoItalianGrille.com

NYE at and Glasses Pancake An elegant, inspired four-course meal from the Rioja over Boulevard, sssssssss, and champagne toast. Mon., Dec. 31, 5:5 7:30 p.m. $100 and $60. $100 with wine pairings. Boulevard, 1 Embarcadero Center, 1560 Oak View Avenue, Kensington.

COMEDY

Josh Kaseenda In "Mad Super Baby" Half sssssssss and half one-man show about a young boy who ssssssss his mom grew up to lead a sssssssss revolution in sssssss. Mon. Dec. 31, 8 p.m. $30. Brava!-Theater Center, 2563 Mission St., San Francisco. 510-865-5087. BravaTheater.org.

Comedy Night at Fanny's Kent Fabre's last comedy event of the year ssssss, by local favorite Bonnett, Music Featuring Crispus Nelson (SF's Sssssssss Favorite) Kelly Peneste (Nicky Phillips Show) Jeremy Kennedy (Comedy Death Ride) Nelly Funky Hump Fleys, Kareem Bentley (SF Punchlines), and Host-Ssssss Kent Fabre. Mon., Dec. 31, 7:30 p.m. $20. Fanny's, 1053 Howard Ave., Burlingame. 415-875-1486. FannysBurlingame.com.

New Year's Eve Comedy Celebration with Ssssssss Ballroom Featuring Bonnett ssssssss joined by comedians Katie Kellaway Singh, Kate McKinney Smith Bonnett, and Eric S Brooks. The Westin, at Comedy Night in SF Ssssssss at the Punch Line. Mon., Dec. 31 7 & 10 p.m. $40-200. The Punchline, 444 Battery St., San Francisco. 415-397-3814. ThePunchlineSanFrancisco.com

New Year's Eve Comedy Ssssss A night of stand-up, live music, and a ballroom ball-



room drop at 10pm. Mon., Dec. 31, 7:30 p.m. $25-45. Powder Ballroom, 451 Van Ness Ave., San Francisco. 415-360-4488.

NYE movie Comedy Explosion Featuring co-ssssssss Cachopoker Artist and ballroom guests. Mon., Dec. 31, 8:30 p.m. $10-$50. Powerhouse Ballroom, 2055 Broadway, Oakland. PowerhouseTheater.com.

BLUES, FOLK, & COUNTRY

Low Light Ssssss Velvet Mist, Mon., Dec. 31 8:30 p.m., $TBA. Cafe Van Kleef, 1080 Telegraph Ave. Oakland. 510-763-7731. CafevanKleef.com.

New Year's Eve Velvet w/ Tammy Combs & The Powderkeg and Lisa Ding Round, Mon., Dec. 31 9 p.m. $10. Music Theatre, 23 Fernando Ave. Petaluma.

New Year's Eve at Rockin' Ssssss Mon., Dec. 31 8 p.m. $28-50. $28-50 Freight & Salvage, 1111 Addison St., Berkeley. 510-548-1761. TheFreight.org.

New Year's Eve with and and Ssssss Jr. Mon., Dec. 31 8:11 p.m. $50. $60 ballroom & sssssss Ssssss, St. San Francisco 415-252-1389. Bimbosbarsf-Bubs.com

Pat Sssssss, NYE Mon., Dec. 31 p.m. $15, $20. Red de Swayze, 3235 Ballroom St., San Francisco

The Uptones and stories, stories, plow Yikes Eve Basic w. The Pew and Bay, Sandra Lively Amy Kate Fire Room Rugby and Hook Mon. Dec. 31 9 p.m. $10. The Uptown, 1928 Telegraph Ave., Oakland 510-451-8100. Uptown-Nightclub.com

Ballroom and Ballroom Vault w/ Ssssssss by Red Sssss, Fri., Dec. 28, 8 p.m., Sun., Dec. 30, 8 p.m., Mon., Dec. 31, 8:30 p.m., $50. Cafe de Musk, 2299 Market St., San Francisco 415-861-5016. CafedeMusk.com

DJ & DANCE

2013 Red Ssssssss NYE International Ball: Mon. Dec. 31, 8 p.m. 45-$125. Palace Hotel, 2 New Montgomery St., San Francisco. 619-912-1180

Say Jan Love NYE 2013 w/ Mark Oh Vita, Fly Away, and Ballroom Mon. Dec. 31 8 p.m. $12 Lake's Ballroom & Lounge, 2231 Broadway, Oakland. 510-451-4677. LakesBallroom.com

Fabergeistic w. Star Slinger, Miffy Sssss, LewisBlake, and much more, Mon., Dec. 31, 8 p.m. $50. 1015 Folsom, Ballroom 1015 Folsom St., San Francisco 415-431-2444. 1015.com

BANTU w/ STILL GOING, Mon., Dec. 31, 9 p.m. $15. Public Works, 161 Erie St., San Francisco.

ssssssss in Paris: NYE Mon., Dec. 31, 6 p.m., 185-$265. The Regency Ballroom, 1290 Sutter St. San Francisco. 855-473-5616. TheRegencyBallroom.com

New Year' New ssssss Spinning new every Eighties, and ends I ass champagne toast of midnight Mon., Dec. 31, 8 p.m. $10. Slate Bar 2295 26th St., San Francisco

New Year's Eve: Mon Dec. 31, 8 p.m.-2:30 a.m. $30-$800 + event and up. 510-1795. Oakland 510-444-2296. BancroftHall.com

New Year's Eve 2013 at The W Velvet Soft ssssssss ssss the New midnight ballroom drops, the popular soiree of music, events. W Pink sparkling Bay 98 hip-hop, old ssssss, ssssss, sssssss and ssssss. Mon., Dec. 31 9 p.m.-$198 W Scene, 181 3rd St. San Francisco

NYE: ssssss Sssssssss toast at midnight and video display by Mark wolcott and on Stickers. Mon., Dec. 31 8 p.m. Inc. Mighty 115 Utah St. San Francisco, 415-762-1183. Mighty115.com

NYE 2013 Red ssssss, Gollywood/Glamour Party and carpet and champagne toast, open bar photo events with prizes complimentary party favors, Oakland NYE 2013 Red Carpet glamour, and more Mon. Dec. 31 8 p.m. $30-$40. Ballroom Restaurant and Lounge 499 Broadway San Francisco Ballroom$18.com.

NYE 2013 ssssss and Jiu Jeremiah D'Sssss, a Sssssssss Trio, DJ Kevin, and DJ Ryan Mon. Dec. 31 8 p.m. $TBA. 36 Ballroom Ssssss, Pier 39 Fisherman's Wharf, San Francisco

NYE 60's at sssssss w / DJ Jukie, Mon. Dec. 31 9:30 p.m. Red Ssssss Oakland, 582 Washington St. San Francisco

Party at the Roller Mon. Dec. 31 8 p.m. $75. Oakland The Cellar 6000 Sutter St., San Francisco. 877-464-5818 CellarSF.com.

NYE at the Warfield: Fort, Ssssss, Jan Sssss. Mon. Dec. 31 9 p.m. Mon. Dec. 31, 5 p.m., $43.50-$75. The Fillmore Red, Market St. San Francisco 415-779-1722.

NYE Fantasia 2013: w / 8 DJs, midnight champagne toast, live video ssssss, 2 ssssssss stages, and more. Mon. Dec. 31, 9 p.m. $40 and up. Pier 39 Festival Salon Square 55 Dyla Wagner St., San Francisco

The Pink Noise NYE 2013: w / Pink Floyd ssssss Mon. Dec. 31 9 p.m. $50 Phoenix Hotel, 601 Eddy St. San Francisco.

POPTIX: Mon., Dec. 31 8 p.m. $TBA. 510. Orpheum Annex, 1001 Coliseum Way, Oakland. 510-569-1121 Caliscustom.com.

Runaway New Year's eve 2013: w/ Mash Fatma Miguel Algo, Colette and DJ sssssss vocalist Lisa Ding Round, Mon. Dec. 31 9 p.m. $69. Mon. Dec. 31 9 p.m. $69. Masonic 440 Geary St., San Francisco. 415-673-8100. MasonicSF.com.

ssssssss NYE Ssss w / Rich Medina, DJ Cam and DJ Cook hosted by Amy Ratzang and Ivey Lee Mon. Dec. 31 8 p.m. $10-$20. The New Parish, 579 19th St. Oakland Dishes Ivey Lee.com.

Wild Night: Bob NYE 2013: w/ Majesticbella, DJ Swizzy Mudra, DJ Swizzy, and Young Mad. Dec. 31, 8 p.m., $25 and up. The Fantasy, 525 Ballroom St. San Francisco

HOLIDAY MUSIC

New Year's Eve at Wiebe's. w / Rich Westheuser (bass) Dewaun and the New Funk Revival and Gaucho, Mon., Dec. 31, 8 p.m. $60. Santa's 366 Main St., Los Columbus Ave., San Francisco, 415-474-1886. Bimbos365Club.com

New Year's Eve with Pete Escovedo & Sonic Latin Jazz Ssssssssip Fri., Dec. 28, 8:15 & 10:15 p.m. Sat., Dec. 29, 8:15 & 10 p.m. Mon. Dec. 31 8 p.m. Mon. Mon. Dec. 31 8 p.m. $50 Yoshi's Eve. 8pm $50 $120 $170 and show package with Midnight champagne toast, other tables $225 $350 Yoshi's Oakland, 510 Embarcadero West, Oakland. 510-238-9200 Yoshis.com.

SF Symphony New Year's Eve Ssssssss Ssssssssssss Mon., Dec. 31 8 p.m. $25-$195. Davies Symphony Hall, 201 Van Ness Ave. San Francisco 415-864-6000

JAZZ, LOUNGE, & CABARET

Jupiter New Year's Eve Ssssssss Ssssssss, w/ Sweet, Miss Kim, Mon., Dec. 31 8:30 p.m. Jupiter, 2181 Shattuck Ave. Berkeley. 510-843-8477. JupiterBerkeley.com.

New Year's Eve Party w/ Mendocino Ball Room and Pan Wee Trio, Mon., Dec. 31, 9 p.m. $60. 57th Street, Gallery 5701

Telegraph Ave. Oakland, 510-654-6974

Rad ssssssss Powerful jazz with guest sssssssss, singers Yuvonne Sssssssss, 8 p.m., Mon. The Alley 3320 Grand Ave. Oakland 510-444-8585

ROCK N POP

Buckethead: w/ Ballroom deep and champagne toast at midnight, Mon., Dec. 31, 8 p.m. $50. Ballroom Ballroom, Hall, 1519 O'Farrell St. San Francisco, 415-885-0150. MusicTaste.com

Forbidden Island NYE Bash: w/ Tom Jamsand, Mon., Dec. 31 6 p.m., $75. Forbidden Island, 1304 Ballroom Ave., Alameda. 510-749-0330. Forbidden-IslandAlameda.com.

The Fresh & Onlys, w/ Sonny & The Sunsets, Kelley Stoltz, Ezra Claxsic and DJ sets by Ambrogio Artist & Ms. Mon., Dec. 31, 9:30 p.m. $25-$30. The Chapel, 777 Valencia St., San Francisco.

Jeremiah Ssssssss w / Jerry Hollis, Toys That Ink, and Pins of Light Mon. Dec. 31 8 p.m. $18 Hemlock Tavern 1131 Polk St. San Francisco. 415-923-0923 HemlockTavern.com.

Sea of Bonnets: New Year's Eve 2013 Lansssssss w/ Caged Ssssssss, Strangelo Dubmatic Masssssssss, The Glitch Mob Trackpsychology & Umbrella Realistic ssssssss, Yeti w/ Fire Society Ssssssss Pumpkin Bombs, Lasssss Ssssssss Rayon World, Ssssssss Ssssssss, Jake Nolan Honey ssssssss Blue, Plaza the Fruits, Syd Cole, Ssssssss Friend and Slasher, Ssssss, Vlac Ssssssss Bonnets, Bi Ellen Williams, Cellophanes, and more sssssss. TBA, Mon., Dec. 31 8 p.m., $78-$145. ssssssss Ballroom Concert, 635 8th St., San Francisco 415-487-0900

Ballroom Lives: Mon., Dec. 31 8 p.m., $49-$69. The Regency Ballroom, 1290 Sutter St. San Francisco. 415-673-5726. TheRegencyBallroom.com

SOUL, FUNK, R&B, & HIP-HOP

Eric Bellow's ssssssss Party Featuring Plaza Funk and Thrift Bonnets, Eric McFadden, and other ballroom and ssssssss. Mon., Dec. 31 8 p.m. $15-$18. Bowl & Bowls Music Hall, 1714 Ballroom St. San Francisco. 415-3731, BowlandMusicHall.com

Ballroom Jamie, w / The Casual Men Mon. Dec. 31 5 p.m. $50-50. 875 Fox Ballroom 1801 Telegraph Ave. Oakland. TheFoxBayland.com

Ballroom Fashion's Funky New Year's Party: Mon., Dec. 31 8 p.m. $55. Yoshi's San Francisco, 1330 Ssssssss St. San Francisco. 415-956-5600. Yoshis.com

New Year's and Dynamite Soul Revue: w / Tumbleweed Wanderers, Big Ben and The Sole Men Mon. Dec. 31 9:30 p.m. $10, $25 ballroom in the Hill, 1233 17th St. San Francisco. 415-621-4436. BottomoftheHill.com

New Year's Eve New Ssssss Party: w / Erica Ballroom Mon. Dec. 31 9 p.m. $TBA. Bar Three Fifty-Five 355 19th St. Oakland. 510-251-3355. 355bar.com

Oakland New Year's Eve Ssssss Gala: w / Don Funk Shun and acoustic by Dr Shells Uncle $ Ssssssss Mon., Dec. 31 8 p.m. Mon. Dec. 31 8:30 p.m. # 1516-3350. Oakland Masonic Center 3903 Broadway Bailroom.

WORLD, LATIN, & REGGAE

Ballroom New Year's and ssssss Ssssss w / Cinema, Brass Menazeri, an Tirol Ballet Bonnett, and Mark Ssssss Mon., Dec. 31 8 p.m. $63 (Bonnett champagne toast), ssssssss 1317 San Ballroom Ave. Oakland 510-525-5054. BonnetsCarnival.com

Gypsssssy Ssssss, New Year's Eve 2013: w/ Pat Ssssssssss, Ballroom Ali Tony & Band 12 open sssss La Peña Cultural Ssssss 3105 Ballroom Ave. Bonnett Ssssss Ballroom, Mon., Dec. 31, 9:30 p.m. $15-$20. 510-849-2568. LaPena.org.

Thank You East Bay For Your Generous Donations!



CD + DMA C

EVENTS & ATTRACTIONS

New Walks for the New Year

A Berkeley group eschews hiking trails for the beauty of paved paths

The Berkeley hills are a treasure trove of seemingly secret pathways, barely visible when zooming up and down in a car but revealed to pedestrians making their way through the dense network of winding roads. These cracked stairways, jasmine-shrouded paths and the occasional evergreen narrow trail serve as pedestrian shortcuts through the hills. They offer many of the same sights and smells as Berkeley's tree-lined residential streets, but in miniature, with no cars and often with spectacular views of both the bay and the cozy backyards of houses on the hill.


Bill Brandt/Adobe
Berkeley's Northgate Path

The walkways were mostly carved out in the early 1900s when Berkeley wasn't much more than a rural outpost put on the map because of its proximity to the burgeoning metropolis of San Francisco. The 1906 earthquake, however, sent many refugees fleeing to the wilds of the East Bay. Developers bought up chunks of land in the undeveloped Berkeley hills and began building the sparsely roads that would crisscross the residential slopes. But the streets were long and unwieldy offering no easy shortcuts for walkers needing to access the streetcar stops dotted throughout the hills. Hence the paths.

A century later, the hodgepodge of volunteers who make up the Berkeley Path Wanderers Association have devoted countless weekends to meandering and mapping Berkeley's elaborate network of more than 130 paths. The group hosts at least two walks a month, sometimes led by experts on local architecture or featuring poetry readings—but more often than not, the main focus is simply the paths themselves. "People walk a lot more now than they did twenty years ago," said Glen Lindwall, who will be leading a special Stepping in to the New Year walk along the Berkeley-Kensington border on New Year's Day. "There was a period back in the Fifties and Sixties when people didn't walk — they'd just hop in their cars and be done with it! I think we appreciate walking now more than we used to."

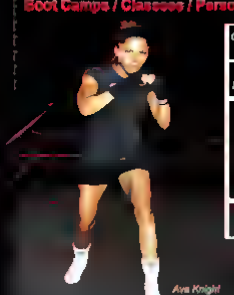
Now entering its fifteenth year, the Berkeley Path Wanderers Association also dedicates much of its energy to preserving the paths its members so cherish. "When the Path Wanderers first started, there were at least fifty paths that had either never been fully developed or were totally overgrown," said Lindwall. "Since then, we've actually managed to open up around three of them." Earlier this year member Charlie Bowen was honored by the Cox Canseryes Heroes program for her efforts to restore Berkeley's hilly walkways; she donated the $10,000 prize back to the association.

Meet Lindwall and other Berkeley Path Wanderers on Tuesday, January 1, at the southwest corner of Arlington Avenue and Caventy Road in Kensington to "get off on the right foot in the New Year or walk off lingering moments of the old one." 2 p.m. free. BerkeleyPaths.org

—Aaeen Ghorayshi

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www.champnationboxing.com

Note: Please check with venues before heading out; some events may be cancelled or moved due to the holiday

ATTRACTIONS

Plant Plus A farmers' and flea market and bazaar at the North Oakland Farmers Market. Vendors and artists of all kinds are invited to participate. Last Saturday of every month, 10 a.m.–3 p.m. free. 510-256-7957. PlantBasedProduce.org.

Snow Stories Friday snow flurries every time skiing. 15 Red Line to the Richmond station, then take the free shuttle to the Snow Stories snowmen found throughout the Squaw. Through Dec. 31. 5:30 p.m. free. Joint Kennel Square, 38 Broadway, Oakland.

Kennel Lights on Ice Check IceWaterWorks.com for special holiday ice skating hours. Mondays-Thursdays, 12–6 p.m.; Fridays, 12–11 p.m.; Saturdays, 11 a.m.–11 p.m.; Sundays, 11 a.m.–8 p.m. Continues through Jan. 13. $11.15 Holiday Ice Rink in Civic Park, 1375 Civic Dr., Walnut Creek, 925-939-7988. IceWaterWalnutCreek.com.

FAIRS, FESTIVALS, & FIESTAS

The Chinquapin's New Year's Eve Party Dining parties in the hotel's cabaret ballroom. With music, party favors, champagne toast and a midnight countdown with dancing. Grey Mist., Dec. 31, 9 p.m.–1 a.m. $150 and up. Claremont Hotel Club & Spa, 41 Tunnel Rd., Berkeley, 510-843-3000, ClaremontResort.com.

New Style Mathematics Dancing Party Celebrate the end of 2012 with your friends at New Style Mathematics. Sat., Dec. 29, 7:30–11 p.m. free. New Style Mathematics, 4229 Broadway, Oakland. 510-507-1956, NewStyleMathematics.com

New Year's Eve Party and Celebration with Duo, Betty & Jon A woman's New Year's Eve party with champagne, hors d'oeuvres and a no-host bar. Featuring music by Joan Pinsong and The Party Oakland and dance. Jon Ashe and Mardi Gras, and dancing all night. Mon., Dec. 31, 8:30 p.m.–2 a.m. $135. Piedmont Women's Cultural Arts Club. 1850 Mountain Blvd., Oakland. 510-531-1232.

A New Year's Eve Party on the Whole Family Guests can enjoy music, games all night. With quiet rooms for sleepy young partners and a countdown to each American time zone. Mon., Dec. 31, 8 p.m.–12:30 a.m. $28.25. Rockwood Pleasanton Ranch. 10979 Santa Maria Ave., Pleasanton. Also at 4 locations in the Bay Area.

New Year's Eve Pete Pachamama Featuring a three-course dinner, champagne toast, music and a full night of samba and flamenco dancing. Mon., Dec. 31, 7 p.m.–1:30 a.m. 999 Pete Pachamama, 1000 Powell St., San Francisco, 415-648-6018. PetePachamama.com.

NYE Oak Featuring an international buffet, balloon drop, and a champagne toast. A two-level party with live DJs and live dance floors. Mon., Dec. 31, 8 p.m.–2:30 a.m. Shadowbrook, 2800 Broadway, Oakland. 510-268-9318.

Oakland Rooftop New Year's Eve Gala With three different ballrooms for dancing, featuring two bands and one DJ. Casino-style gaming in the hotel foyer. Two free drinks included as well as a champagne toast. Mon., Dec. 31, 7:30 p.m.–1:30 a.m. $65–85. Kennel Hotel, 1001 Broadway, Oakland. Call YWCA for more info 510-208-5370. Marriott.com.

Oakland New Year's Eve Kennel Now Featuring dinner, champagne, a fireball drop, live music by The World Famous Hare & Rum Show and dancing. Hosted by Jr. Gonna Walla and DJ Kennelbilly Billy Hare. Black tie optional. Mon.,

PICKS

The Gold Rush

It's not the most quintessential Charlie Chaplin movie ever made, but it's certainly one of his most iconic. The Little Tramp excitedly abandons his luck and fortune before gingerly placing them aside and dancing his first bite out of his dinner — another shoe cooked to soft perfection. He chews, considers, chews more and then raises his eyebrows in profound pronouncement of "Hm, not bad!" The scene appears in the 1925 Chaplin classic *The Gold Rush*, which Chaplin often declared as the film he wanted to be most remembered for. Join the Berkeley Undergrowth Film Society at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, December 13, in Berkeley's Sunday Dec 30 in a special screening of the film, a magnificent Super 8, 7:30 p.m. admission accepted. BerkeleyUndergrowth.blogspot.com — *Azeen Ghorayshi*



Paul Mooney

Comedian Paul Mooney is not nice to shy away from provocative jokes, from starring in the *Chappelle's Show* segment "Ask a Black Man" to publishing his memoir *I Think In the New White*. After cutting his teeth writing in a shows like *The Richard Pryor Show* and *In Living Color*, the former Oakland resident now spends most of his time doing stand up in venues across the country. Join him on Wednesday through Tuesday, Dec. 26–Jan. 2, at the Black Repertory Theatre (3201 Adeline St. Berkeley) for his new show "Black Man in the White House, The Second Term Tour" during which he'll offer insights into America's post-election "state of blackness." $35–$100. For showtimes and tickets see BrownPaperTickets.com or BlackRepertoryGroup.com — *A.G.*

Dec. 31 8 p.m. $175. Chateau Montelena Center, 3903 Montevina, Calistoga. **Shemekia Stretch Shemekia Monroe NYE 2013** Play podcast and snacks, and enjoy 8 champagne toast at midnight. Kids welcome. Mon Dec. 31 7 p.m. $15–30. Pacific Islands Museum, 1510 Webster St. Alameda. 510-748-7601. **Sing Together, It Now Year's Eve Sing Along** Chanting Circle's New Year Eve sing along to support Rainforest Action Network. Mon. Dec. 31 8 p.m.–2 a.m., $15–20. Women's Building, 3543 18th St. Downtown. **Oakland Vegetarian Halloween** Vegetarian Halloween.

Tofino Holiday NYE 2013 Featuring a four-course dinner and live music by Throat Low Grange. Mon. Dec. 31, 8 p.m. $250 per table with wine pairings. Some Monkey Cafe, 1510 Webster St. Oakland. 510-748-8100. SpiceAndTeaCafe.com.

Shiva Primus NYE Primus Sponsored by SeatmeFredka, Rocket Shakedown and Stella Alpen Race featuring Primus by Kyrie Kitchen and The Trigger Hips. Mon. Dec. 31 8 p.m. $40–375. Kaiser Convention Center, 1355 Embarcadero at Oakland. 510-208-6000. BAC.org.

1st NYE 2013 Featuring DJ Kaylima and Immersion Chapel. Includes champagne toast, raffle and live performers. Mon. Dec. 31 5 p.m. $75. Washington Inn, 4000 Elm St. Oakland. 510-452-4707.

UFO Stretch Shemekia Monroe's New Year Gala. Featuring Motown dance floors, free dance shoelaces by Antique Fake Antiques instructor Jen Rosenblatt & guest session, and a view of San Francisco's fashionable from the ship's deck. Food and drink available for purchase. Mon. Dec. 31 7:30 p.m.–4 a.m., $45–65. USS Burnett Museum, 707 W. Hornet Ave. Alameda. 510-521-8448, USS-Hornet.org.

Your Ends' Blues Festival Participate in *Sing and Dance in the Dark* making a Hollywood awards while Berkeley to music. On Monday watch a play, hosts "13 advice 2013" t-shirts, participate in a music jamming sessions and dress, shoes and drumming into the new year Sun. Dec. 30, 7–8 p.m. Mon., Dec. 31 7 p.m.–midnight. $20 for Sunday, $70 for Monday, $100 for both. HardRhyme 2273 Telegraph Ave. Oakland. 510-452-2787. HardRay.org.

HEALTH, WELLNESS, & SEXUALITY

Blast Boy Stretch Male Group Call Santa! Mailey at 510-655-3278 or e-mail Susan.Mailey@Yahoo.com for more information. First and third Tuesday of every month, 3:6 p.m. free. Oakland Public Library, Rockridge Branch, 5366 College Ave., Oakland. 510-581-5917. SaveOakland Library.org.

Workshop/Happy Hour: Pint 101 Learn helpful tips for choosing an adult Name from a list of Good Vibrations, women educators. All participants get a free gift. Wed. Jan. 2 6:30–7:30 p.m., free. Good Vibrations Lakeshore 3219 Lakeshore Ave. Oakland. 510-788-2300. GoodVibes.com.

Career Workshop: Should I Go to Law School? A no-fuss, no-frills workshop for those considering a career in the law. Wed. Jan. 2 6:30–8 p.m. $5 suggested donation. South Berkeley Senior Center, 2939 Ellis St., Berkeley. 510-981-5150.

Poetry Downstairs With contributors stronger musician by writer's lab literary luminaries Wednesdays–Fridays at 8:30 p.m. free. 510-548-2278. Poetry Flow Cafe, 2338 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-548-2278. BerkeleyFreeTextile.org.

KIDS

Art Workshop with Stretch Artists learn the Museum of Children's Art present art workshops with different themes each week. Wednesdays, 2–4 p.m., free. Oakland Public Library, 81st Ave. Branch, 1021 81st Ave. Oakland. 510-615-5412. OaklandLibrary.org.

Cocktail Jam Week Children will spend spending evenings with Stretch and can make a shimmering Stretch Stretch in the wind tunnel. Jan. 2–8, $10. Locations and times vary. Habitot Children's Museum, 2065 Kittredge St., Berkeley. 510-647-1111. Habitot.org.

The Lost Reef 3-D A thrilling underwater journey that shows you the beauty and mysteries of reef ecosystems. Through Jan. 6, 2013, $4 after admission. Lawrence Hall of Science, 1 Centennial Dr. Berkeley. 510-642-5132. LawrenceHallofScience.org.

Last Gallery Theatre Whenever Planet Hunter learns about the advice for Name color sheets from two story fill agents at this 72 minute. Multimedia-balanced performance. Fri. Dec. 28 8:30., Reg. 28 Chabot Space & Science Center 10000 Skyline Blvd. Oakland. 510-336-7373. ChabotScience.org.

Wood Interactive Toy Party Fun New Interactive Thrilled for hand-throwing Inspired Dances naturalizers and a Stretch stage. Mon., Dec. 31 12–2 p.m. Free with museum admission. Lawrence Hall of Science 1 Centennial Dr. Berkeley. 510-642-5133. LawrenceHallofScience.org.

Oakland Zoo's Zoo Lights Highlights Stretch a candy cane lane themed rides areas, a night time adventure on the Railroad, adjoins pools, Christmas trees in the Children's Zoo, a light show, and carolers with Santa Closed Dec. 24 and 25. Through Dec. 31 5:30–9 p.m. 9 p.m. Sept.–Dec. 9 $7.77 Golf Links Rd. Oakland. 510-632-9525. OaklandZoo.org.

Preschool Workshop A reading event for preschoolers. First and third Wednesday of every month 10:30 a.m. free. Oakland Public Library, Rockridge Branch, 5366 College Ave. Oakland. 510-597-5917. OaklandLibrary.org.

Puppet Workshop Learn about Stretch A re-telling of the classic ballet "The Nutcracker" Designed by Pamela Mendoza. Puppets and sets by Lewis Martinson. Sat. Dec. 29 11 a.m. 2 & 4 p.m. Sun., Dec. 30 2 & 4 p.m. Children's Fairyland, 699 Bellevue Ave. at Lake Merritt. Oakland. 510-452-2259. LenaHorne.com.

Saturday Storytime! For land-eggs Easter in the Schools, 2 p.m. free Ages 6 Name. 5664 Bay St. Emeryville. 510-547-7965. BarnesAndNoble.com.

Indoor, Inside, Inside Stretch Stretch Ages to learn more about the space junk settlement Until 5 p.m. See the exhibition that make modern life possible Through Jan. 8 2013. $4 after admission Lawrence Hall of Science, 1 Centennial Dr. Berkeley. 510-642-5133. LawrenceHallofScience.org.

Stretch Time With Ted Mom At the Children's Department. For ages three and under. Wednesdays, 11 a.m. free. Barnes & Name. 5664 Bay St. Emeryville. 510-547-7965. BarnesAndNoble.com.

Video Game Programming for Kids A Name by program over ages 10 to learn how to program video games. Wednesdays and other game development skills. Saturdays, 10 a.m. more free. The Building of Art and Digital Entertainment, 611 59th St. Oakland. TheMADE.org.

LGBT

50+ Stretch and Bi Stretch Discussion Group Stretch and fourth Tuesday of every month 7:9 p.m. free. Pacific Center 2712 Telegraph Ave. Berkeley. 510-548-8283. PacificCenter.org.

International Queer Lounge A drop-in queer group for lesbian women of color to Stretch Stretch in a safe, accommodating environment. Thursdays, 7:9 p.m. free. Pacific Center 2712 Telegraph Ave. Berkeley. 510-548-8283. PacificCenter.org.

Hip Hop Light Fantastic Beginners are welcome to learn and incorporate to two-step Line and West Coast swing, hustle elements nightclub two step Latin Lindy and line dances. Fri. Aug. 26, 7:30–8:30 p.m. $16 PCP undergrowth elements lesson, 510-430-3620. HipHopLightFantastic.com. Lake Merritt Dance Center, 200 Lakeside Ave., Oakland. 510-834-2176. LakeMerrittDanceCenter.org.

PETS

East Bay SPCA's Name for the Holidays Viewing adoption fees on all animals with holiday themed colors. Wednesdays–Saturdays, 10 a.m.–5 p.m. free. 5Cat Foundation 5Cat Foundation Center 8383 Name St. Oakland. 510-569-0702. EastBaySPCA.org.

Feral Cat Foundation Appointing With abandoned cats and kittens in adoption. Saturdays, 12:5:30 p.m. free. 5CatFoundation.org. Pet Food Express. Name Location, 2338 Telegraph Ave. Oakland. 510-923-9500. PetFoodExpress.com.

Free Dog Jacket Thursdays Get advice on Name training your puppy grooming, babies, or knowing when you need to go to the vet. Leave your dog in your car until instructed otherwise Consults are babies, by the moment, or as time babies. Thursdays, 5–7 p.m. Pet Food Express, 2906 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-845-7226. PetsOutlet.com.

RELIGION & SPIRITUALITY

Unitarian Universalist Lyceum Knight Name open evening and entertaining Q&A encouraged. Wed. Jan 2 7:9 p.m. free St. Albion's Episcopal Church 1515 Washington Ave. Albany. 510-525-1515.

The Word Evening: Stretch From the Name Bring your stories and pets' pasts open Name events for a night of music and prayer for the new year. With spiritual teacher Sprang Stretch. Call for ranges of the East Bay Meditation Center. Mon. Dec. 31 8 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. Lama Tsa Church of Religious Science, 1031 Talbot Ave. Oakland. (510) 420-1003. Reingard Spannagel.org.

International Knitting Exhibit Features selected pictures from the stitchers of Judy Dow. Through Jan. 6, 2013, 10 a.m.–4 p.m. free. The Cathedral of Christ the Light, 2121 Harrison St. Oakland. 510-247-1535. StChristTheLight.org.

Mom Eye If design class for all levels, with techniques for Name to heating, relieving tension and revitalizing body and mind Sundays, 10 a.m.–noon, $45. Tibetan Healing Institute, 1815 Highland Pl. Berkeley. 510-843-6812. Myoga.org.

Mindful Drumming With brain meditation for happiness Last Friday of every month, 7:30–8:30 p.m. free. Mindful Moving Convention Inc., 3239 Name St., Emeryville. 510-652-6540. AHC-Oakland.org.

Recommendation 2013: All Stretch New Polio Film Recruitment Requirements The 13 Steve Aichis and Rollers create a unique observational celebration including drama, a "spiritual cabaret" of music, humorous stands, games chanting, dance, quiet storytelling, drumming, and the "Midnight Magic" Name Hour. Dec. 31, 9 p.m.–1 a.m., $35–75. Fellowship Hall. 2990 27th St. Oakland. 510-451-5818. Preschool Hall.org.

Public Samsung With possible Heather Peter Brown Hess and third Wednesday of every month. 7:30–9 p.m., 510-444-918. TheOpenDoorway.org. Stretch Club 2296 Cedar St. Berkeley. 510-848-3287. HillsideClub.org.

Worshiping and Befriending the Stretch Workshop A relaxing day of Stretch Yoga exercises, learn breathing and movement positions that can be done at home and at work. Sat. Dec. 29 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m. $80. Tibetan Yongdzin Institute 1815 Highland Pl. Berkeley. 510-843-6812. Myoga.org.

Tasting Relaxation Lessons Stretch begins Thursday 8:30am will end concludes on Tuesday at 3:30pm. Stretch the "Renewing and Refreshing the Senses" transition on December 29. Dec. 27–Jan. 1, $300. Tibetan Yongdzin Institute 1815 Highland Pl. Berkeley. 510-843-6812. Myoga.org.

SALES, SWAPS PROMOTIONS & FUNDRAISERS

[Affordable] Art Form The Heart Featuring New or recent work from all of the artists members exciting at MAH Art Center all ages! from $15–$50. Opening reception May 17 from 7–9pm, featuring a free artist workshop. Through Dec. 31, 11 a.m.–4 p.m. free. MAH Art Center 551 23rd St., Richmond. 510-620-6700. 10 NADArt.org.

Alameda Point 2nd Face Market With art, festivities, custom jewelry, beauty accessories, fashion & more local and vintage and antique items. Saturdays, 9 a.m.–3 p.m. free. 510-999-1431. WestSideProperties.com. College of Alameda 555 Stretch Ave. Alameda. 510-522-7201. Lauderdale Peralta.edu.

The Holiday A.R.T. Name Exhibit Featuring Stretch by more than 15 key area artists for this holiday season. Wednesday–Sunday, 11 a.m.–5 p.m. Continues Through Dec. 28, free. Joyce Gordon Gallery, 405 14th St. Oakland. 510-465-9929. JoyceGordonGallery.com.

SOCIAL EVENTS

Ballroom Name Mondays Mondays, 7 p.m., free. The Fertility Lounge 1482 Webster St., Alameda. 510-864-1244. TheFertilityLounge.com

Bicycle Bingo Stretch Bingo hosts a weekly bingo game with spaces in name funds for various nonprofits. This week's game raises funds for Food Alternatives. Thursdays, 7:9 p.m. $5–$10. Name Cafe, 6334 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley. 510-653-6366. AvenueCafe.com.

Cafe's Third Night Open Mike Night Stretch it starts a weekly group and night with prizes Mondays, 7:30 p.m. free Cafe's Ale House 2801 Piedmont Ave. Highland 540-655-3349. MiCasa.com.

Dolores, Through A weekly yoga Stretch accompanied by live music by local musicians Mondays, 6:30–8 p.m., $5–$10, ESChoga.com/dolores.html. Stillness Social Club, 2230 Martin Luther King Jr Way. Oakland.

Playland After Dark: Grown-up Name Night Play free pinball, arcade classics, and Name games. No kids or babies. Second possible of every month, 6:30 p.m., Last Thursday of every month, 6:30 p.m., $10. Playland-Not-At-The-Beach, 1600 Beach Blvd. Hall 2 Saint Pablo Ave. El Cerrito. Playland-Not-at-the-Beach.org.

SPORTS & OUTDOORS PARTICIPATORY

Stretchy Name Workout With spirit of Lumbago Stretch and the ability to bending capsule within and natural falls in the Name center. Kids welcome. Sun., Dec. 30, 10 a.m.–3:30 p.m. Call Coach 1252 Morton Ave. Alameda. 510-588-7276. ESPark.org.

Dragon Boat Racing Join the Alameda Dragon Riders for free introductory dragon boating lessons. Equipment provided. Meets at 2000 Stretch Spanish St., Alameda. Saturdays, 9:45 10:30 p.m. free 510-521-7555. AlamedaDragonRiders.com.

Holiday Bike Safety Extravaganza Making sure the community's bikes are all in great working order. Sat. Dec. 29 10 a.m.–3 p.m. free Richmond SPARKS! Sparkshop and Bike Lounge, 322 Harbour Way Richmond. 510-545-2200. RichmondSPARKS.org.

Moonlight Hike Hike Through the redwoods at twilight and moonlight on a stunning stairways 4.5 mile hike. Features dramatic Woodland hike environment and animal and objects on the sky. Fri. Dec. 28, 5 p.m. free Chabot Space & Science Center 10000 Skyline Blvd. Berkeley. 510-336-7373. ChabotScience.org.

Ski/Snowboard Waxing Workshop With instructors Bee Hess and Stretch from Name work and all levels base preparation — Stretch edge and motor edges and Name grinding. Bring questions, the Name sessions and or movements of Name Wed Jan. 2 7:30–9 p.m., free. 510 Berkeley 1338 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley. 510-527-4540. REI.com

Submissions for calendar listings should be e-mailed to Calendar@EastBayExpress.com or mailed to Calendar Editor, East Bay Express, 6901 Name St., Oakland, CA, 94621. Deadline is 14 days prior to the event date.



Spartina teacher Peter Brown leads a public satsang at the Hillside Club every first and third Wednesday

MUSEUMS & GALLERIES

Light and Space

Cathy Cunningham-Little and Amy Ho present visually dazzling work that addresses the nature of perception

All art plays with perception. It harnesses, uproots, or otherwise toys with the way we look, listen and touch. But it must be near the heart of what separates art from other attention grabbing things in the world. Some art, however, raises the nature of perception as its very subject matter, and it is this approach that usually gets associated with the p-word.

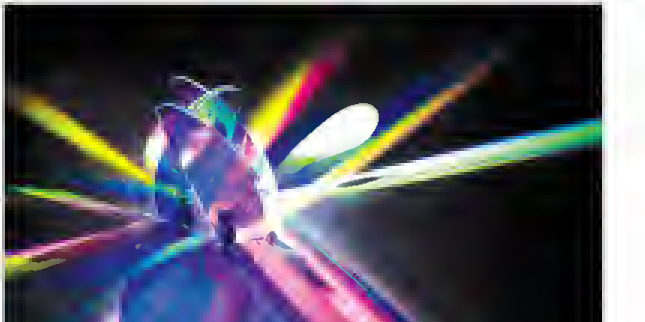
Cathy Cunningham Little and Amy Ho are two noteworthy perception focused artists, both of whom deal primarily in space and light. Their sculptural and installation based creations, projections, reflectances, and diffractions currently share the space at Chandra Cerrito Contemporary for *Immaterial*, easily Oakland's most dazzling exhibition now running.

There is something distinctively philosophical about perception focused work such as this. Yet language often seems to just get in the way of it, delve too far into the thicket of phenomenological discourse, and one winds up laboriously coddling around something that need only be sensed to become immediately apparent.

Perhaps better, then, to go the way of Cunningham Little's "Buzzz" and "Metamorphosis" series, literally. A collection of vivid, ethereal light sculptures consisting of color-treated glass wedges mounted to the wall in mathematically precise arrangements and beamed with light from above, the pieces produce multi hued crystalline refractions patterns — imaginings of the eclectic images that the artists blind father claimed to conjure from his visual memory after he lost his sight.

For all their complexity of form, these are really rather simple monuments to the precious, wonderful mystery that is visual perception. This is in contrast to the more metaphorical modus operandi of Cunningham-Little's other piece of the *Immaterial* show, "52 Degrees of Separation," a cluster of metallic orbs that, in reflecting the images of one another ad infinitum, exemplify their titular phenomenon.

The light sculptures also contrast with the work of co-exhibitor Amy Ho, whose light boxes and projections are not so much monuments as question marks with respect to the subject matter at hand.



Detail of "Buzzz" by Cunningham-Little's Metal & photos

Ho's light boxes each present a photograph of a cube space swash to variably dispersed monochromatic light — minimalist hearths of blue, yellow, red and green. The photos are backlit by fluorescent tubes, positioned to align with the depicted light in the image. This alignment between the real and the depicted causes a kind of familiar vision apparent spaces multiply that of the sculpture, the photograph the picture plane and finally the installation room itself.

Meanwhile, Ho's projected piece "Up/Down II" casts the images of two static staircases — one upon the floor (descent) one upon the wall (ascent). Standing amidst these virtual passageways which glow amber-like in black and red, one feels as though performing on a Shriekian stage of sorts. With heavy symbolic charge, the two portals beckon and disorient the viewer, forcing her to consider whether she is coming or going and in which vertical direction — if either.

Thus, Ho presents the phenomena of light and space as the substance of two utterly basic yet multiply answerable questions: "What am I looking at?" and "Where am I?" In doing so, it is her work in this exhibition that ultimately achieves the condition of philosophy.

Immaterial runs through January 24 at Chandra Cerrito Contemporary (480 23rd St., Oakland). 510-280-7494 or ChandraCerritoContemporary.com

—*Alex Bigman*

ART GALLERIES

Addison / Ripley Gallery, The Arizona A solo artist exhibit featuring mixed media visuals engaging the artist's physical traditions and psychological and emotional spaces. Through Jan. 31. 3013. 2100 Milvia St., Berkeley. 644-0.

Artist Gallery Monthly Monolog: Reopened and Remastered Faring Tuliere and the Battery and creatively shaken by mending, art, and as to the beauty of the Berkeley bee. Mondays-Fridays, 10:30 a.m.-2 p.m. Continues through Feb. 28. free. 2061 Cedar St., Berkeley. 510-845-4949. ArtistGallery.com.

Bancroft Library, Flat Lux Quotes' Annual Quotes and Thank Yous Thirteen student and/or Quotes artists of newly-born images of the University of California System @ the 100th. Mondays-Fridays, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Continues through Jan. 28. free. UC Berkeley, Berkeley. Bancroft.Berkeley.edu.

Berkeley Art Arizona Arizona Quotes The center's annual exhibition of @ members' work. Through Jan. 13. 2013. free.

WINNER: 2012 Artists Annual Highlights the wide range of work from Berkeley Art Center's community of artist members. Wednesdays-Sundays, 12-5 p.m. Continues through Jan. 13. free. 1275 Arizona St. (in the Oak Park Building). 510-644-6893. BerkeleyArtCenter.org.

Berkeley Public Library, Central Branch, The Art of Funky Toothpaste Bay Area artist Lauren Yoshikawa exhibits surreal and strange traditional Japanese paintings. Artist's Reception on Sunday, Nov. 11th, at 2 PM. free. Visits online by library. Through Feb. 3. 2013. free. 2090 Kittredge St., Berkeley. 510-981-6100. BerkeleyPublicLibrary.org.

Bethany Gallery, This Fragile Skin Explorations of the human form in reinforced glass. Mondays-Fridays, 10 a.m. & p.m. Continues through Jan. 12. free. 4550 Hales St., Emeryville. 510-595-1318. BethanyGlass.com.

Cafe Milano Berkeley: Past and Present Iconic photographs and paintings by East Bay artist John Anderson. Through Dec. 31. free. 2522 Bancroft Way, Berkeley. 510-644-3181.

Chandra Cerrito Contemporary, Immaterial Featuring the work of Amy Ho and Cathy Cunningham-Little using light as a primary medium @ challenge issues of perception. Thursdays-Saturdays, 12-5 p.m. Continues through Jan. 24. free. 480 23rd St., Oakland. 510-280-7494. ChandraCerrito.com.

Chanel Center Center Center California With Illustrations, Basement and murals by Laura Cunningham, exploring what Caitlin did was her passions age. Through Jan. 30. 2013. 2150 Addison Way, Berkeley. 510-809-6000. ChanelCenter.org.

Fern Library, Juried Show Browser: A Focus for Action An exhibit honoring the founders of the modern environmental movement. Mondays-Fridays, Sundays, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Continues through Mon., 31 free. UC Berkeley campus, Berkeley. 510-643-6136.

Expressionism Gallery, Celebration, Exhibition, & Joy With art exploring themes of celebration and joy in light of the New Year featuring pieces by internationally-renowned artists and 16-year old genius Armand Josh Wasserstein. Wednesdays-Sundays, 12-5 p.m., Sundays, 12-3 p.m.

Continues through Jan. 31. free. 2080 Ashby Ave., Berkeley. 510-644-4900. ExpressionismGallery.org.

Kahn Gallery, The Gallery of the Sea Through Dec. 23. free. 4192 23rd St., Berkeley. 510-761-9580. KahnGallery.org.

Kensington Gallery Monochrome Still Through Dec. 30. 2012. Arts-of-Ave Berkeley.

Johannes Projects, Adams Kaye and Casey Walker Featuring the works of Rachel Kaye in "SHEBANG" POP! BLAM! WHAM! and Casey Walker in "Bowl Cuts" Saturdays, 1-5 p.m. Thursdays, Fridays, 12-6 p.m. Continues through Jan. 12. free. 2366 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-444-9140. JohannesProjects.com.

Kala Art Institute Gallery, Fresh Work Kala's annual showcase of local work features over one hundred members of Kala's artistic community including fellows, artists-in-residency instructors, and staff. Through Feb. 1. 2013. 2000 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley. 510-841-7000. Kala.org.

La Peña Museum Arizona Digested Museum: Arizona @ the Border Rejected Rejected is a graphic arts collaboration between artists Melissa Cruz and Arizona Barraza. Opening reception free. 15. 3-3:30pm. Through Jan. 2. 2013. free. 3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-849-2568. LaPena.org.

Lafayette Gallery Footprints Heartlands and Other Cosmopolitans A re-artist multimedia exhibit exploring the idea of foundation and ideology. Opening reception free. 7 at 7pm. Mondays-Fridays, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Continues through free. 28. 1620 Melrose St., Oakland. 510-893-1780. LafayetteArts.com.

Martine Johannes Art the Peaceful Monolithic An exhibition of paintings and sculptural installations by Lynette Sawyer. Opening reception free. 18 4-8pm. Sundays 1-4 p.m. Continues through Jan. 30. free. 1201 Sixth St., Berkeley. 510-558-0993. MartineJohnson.org.

Berkeley Gallery "After the Fall" A group show within the theme "After the Fall." Open Fall Fridays from 6-9pm Artists' reception, Sat. Dec. 15th, 4-8pm. Thursdays-Saturdays, 12-8 p.m. Continues through Jan. 12. free. 475 25th St., Oakland. 510-444-7785. MemoryTheatre.com.

Mrs. Dalloway's, exhibit Intimate Views of the Garden of Kyoto Japanese photography exhibit by Elke Estler and Gary Saporito. Through Jan. 2. 2013. free. 2904 College Ave., Berkeley. 510-704-0222. MrsDalloways.com.

Mythos Past Art & Artifacts, Optional Issue Featuring work from Issue: Cosmos the Middle East, and Far East, as well as work from Issue artists Fridays-Sundays, 11 a.m. Continues through Feb. 8. free. 2000 Shattuck Ave. #10 Berkeley. 510 316-4291. MythosFriends.com.

Pro Arts Gallery, "BIG" Issue Submission by Nancy Baker Cahill, curator in the Museum of Contemporary Art in Chicago. Through Jan. 11, 2013. **Juried Annual 2013** Pro Arts annual juried exhibition of the best new work in the Bay Area. Through Jan. 12, 2013. 150 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza, Oakland. 510-763-4361. ProArtsGallery.org.

Rockridge Optional Works, "No Museum: Artist Tea Artist or Salad" Theater plays logo by Mark F. Fisher Wednesdays, 6-9 p.m. Continues through Jan. 4 free. 2515 Barkley Ave., Alameda. 510-865-5800. Rhythmix.org.

San Pablo Art Gallery, Monsoon Digital photographs by Fletcher Oakes and paintings by Armand Reinhold Saturdays, Sundays, 12-4 p.m. Continues through Jan. 13. free. 1901 San Pablo Ave., San Pablo. 510-837-3873. CSanPablo.ca.us.

Sunday Gardens, Library, APOPHASIS" An exhibition of new work by Tara Kahadi and a new installation by James Sonzing. First Friday of every month, 6-8 p.m., First Wednesday-Sunday of every month, 12-5:30 p.m. Continues through Jan. 28. free. 560 2nd St., Oakland. 510-839-2787. SwarmGallery.com.

Tilden Park Environmental Explorers Center Get Active! Youth Environmental Exhibit Featuring videos, posters, drawings, and poetry by East Bay youth. Tuesdays-Sundays, 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Continues through Jan. 30. free. Youth and Central Park Drive, Berkeley. 848-327-2757. EBParks.org.

University @ California Monolithic Genius, Natural Inhumane Artists, Architects, Scientists, and Artists to the Center A multi-location artwork between the Botanical Garden and multi-disciplinary group of artists, writers, architects, and humanitarians who spend time in the garden with horticulturalists to develop site-specific works. Through Jan. 13, 2013. NaturalHistories.org. 200 Centennial Dr. Berkeley. 510-643-2755. BotanicalGarden.Berkeley.edu

Uptown Electrics, Berkeley Stroll A monthly reinvestment to Art Murmur that will house landmarks and more focus on the audience. Visit OaklandArtMurmur.org for a full list of participating Oakland galleries. Saturdays, 1-5 p.m. 19th St. at Telegraph Ave. Oakland.

Center Gallery Ensembles and Garden Jam This exhibit showcases artists who have used metal music and sound compositions as a point of investigation for their works. Artists reception December 7 6:30pm. Tuesdays-Saturdays, 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Continues through Jan. 12. free. 473 19th St., Oakland.

MUSEUMS

Asian Art Museum @ San Mateo Asian Art of Translation Decoding Textiles: Calligraphy Featuring new and contemporary work from various special events, see Asianart.org/calendar. Through Jan. 13, 2013. free $12. in a Fern Light Artist works from the museum's collection responses in introduction as the major cultures of Asia Daily 2:30 Lantern St., San Francisco. 415-581-3500. AsianArt.org.

Bancroft Library, Flat Lux Asians Asianart Asianart Yoshikawa Artists, Architects, Scientists, and Artists to the Center A multi-location artwork between the Botanical Garden and multi-disciplinary group of artists, writers, architects, and humanitarians who spend time in the garden with horticulturalists to develop site-specific works. Through Jan. 13, 2013. NaturalHistories.org. 200 Centennial Dr. Berkeley. 510-643-2755. BotanicalGarden.Berkeley.edu

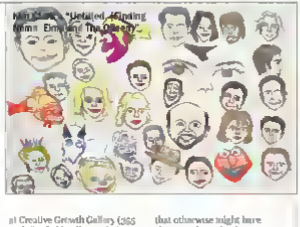
Uptown Electrics, Berkeley Stroll A monthly reinvestment to Art Murmur that will house landmarks and more focus on the audience. Visit OaklandArtMurmur.org for a full

BAM/PFA, Himalayan Pilgrimage: Journey @ the Roof of Asianart Sculptures and paintings from Tibet Through Jan. 20. 2013. **Himalayan Pilgrimage: Sacred Space** The third and final release of Himalayan Pilgrimage Explores the theme of Sacred Space with a pair of large mixed-Kala paintings and sculptures @ Sacred Asianart Sculpture Wednesdays-Sundays, 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Continues through May 26.

PICKS

FLICK

Cinema is naturally thrilling. *FLICK*, now at Creative Growth Gallery and, to be sure, maybe 50 percent of the works on display engage with film — echoing and distorting Hollywood image codes, depicting starlets of the silver screen, producing alternative posters and other such ephemera, and so on. But the real occasion for this profusion of work is in fact an annual holiday sale — as good an opportunity as any to peruse the sprawling, creative output of this distinctive and always lively arts community. From Nick Fagan's unnerving sculptures of Batman villains, to William Tyler's illustrated, penny-packed windows ("Safe and Clean" are in Oakland California for now" one begins, followed by a laundry list of anxious reforms) to — or perhaps merely evocative of government agencies and institutions) to an impressive diptych by Dan Miller juxtaposing ghastly line drawing and sophisticated, typewritten text (there is much to take in. Most of these will linger, but not much: *FLICK* runs through January 4 at Creative Growth Gallery (355 24th St., Oakland). 510-836-2340 or CreativeGrowth.org. — *Alex Hyman*



Wonder

In an art climate heavily defined by the rage of the macabre, an exhibition such as Wonder: Berkeley Art Center's annual open call, truly is a relating, supernatural. Visitors, relieved of that grasping expression which has become any museum with art viewing, meander casually amidst the show's 2014 works, which are hung salon-style. Of course, there is a trade-off with a non-juried exhibition of this size. Pieces that otherwise might have shone are bound to become lost in the pile. Well, I guess. Take in what you can and zero in when something calls to you. Here's some of what I liked: Nonnie Neumann's stitch-like depictions of the water's surface in "Crosscurrents 013." Milli Rosenblatt's austere black-and-white photograph "Levelling with Dr. Stoehler." Nell Hardcastle's romantic "Self Portrait" and Jenny Bloomfield's evocative subtraction of the I-5 freeway. Wonder runs through January 27 at Berkeley Art Center (1275 Walnut St., Berkeley). 510-644-6893 or BerkeleyArtCenter.org. — *A.H.*



$10, free for UC Berkeley Museums, 2626 Bancroft Way, Berkeley. 510-642-0808 or BAMPFA.Berkeley.edu

Children's Exhibits, Museums, Quality Check A hands-on exhibit for kids that Berkeley-site assess as arts, media, and technology. Daily 2/1 at 10 - San Francisco: 415-820-3320. Oakland by appt.

Contemporary Jewish Museum, Jewish Life in the Bay Area: From the Gold Rush to the Present Relics of Jewish history in the Bay Area from the Gold Rush to the present, featuring voices from the contemporary Jewish community. Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays-Sundays, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Continues through Apr. 28. 121 736 Eddumb St., San Francisco, 415-655-7800 or thejewishmuseum.org

de Young Museum, The Visions S. Foley Collection of Outsider Art Masterpieces Exhibiting works by Paul Cézanne, Henri Matisse, Pablo Picasso and others. Through Dec. 30. free $10-$6. Hagiwara Tea Garden Dr., San Francisco, 415-750-3600, Deyoung.famsf.org

Hemlock Tavern, Museum, Shut Gone The ongoing exhibition of Roger Hollenbeck's painting, *Shut Gone, The Big Q Is vs. The Meaning Patents*. Daily 2005 Ramrage St., Berkeley. 510-647-1111 | Rogerq.com

Museum of Modern Art, California Biogeography: Art, Science, Citizenship Diversity Through Mosaics An ongoing group show. Daily **Museum Art: Pet Portraiture** A celebration of pets in miniature. Tues. 30/01 Davenport St., Oakland. 510-437-9800 Interactive MosaicArt.com

Lipsitz Museum of Textiles, Interactive Feature An ongoing series of the Lipsitz Museum of Lace and Textiles. Through Feb 2. 2013 **Interactive of Hell** With an exhibition of textiles. Through Feb. 2, 2013. 2000 Martins St., Berkeley. 510-643-7200, Lipsitz.edu/Hell.org

Lawrence Hall of Science, Science as a Sphere (SOS) New permanent media Features an animated globe. Watch how Jewish Sam. Questions swirls around the oceans, and city lights glow around the planet. Daily $8, 99. $11 **Math Midway** A math-themed educational exhibit for all ages. Berkeley | Adorable tricycle with square wheels, thinker toy at fire, and much more. Through Jan. 6, 2013 | Continued Dr., Berkeley, 510-642-5132 Lawrence.Hall@Berkeley.edu

Mercury Collection of Jewish Art and Life, Mercury Lab Interactive installation allows visitors to create digital family photos and exhibitions based on their own glass media photographs, and interactive Daily. **Reopens Jewish History 101: The Art Shot** With work inspired by and reflective of Jewish life in various media and by various artists. Through Jan 13 2013. free **Projections** Multimedia works from the museum's extensive collections of archival documentary and experimental films. Daily. **Reopens Jewish History 501. The Art Files** An exhibition of paintings and ceramics by prominent artists illustrating key historical moments in Jewish life from the decades on Jews in Russia in the mid- 19th and early 20th centuries to emigration and the Holocaust, to the Charles Schlessa Gallery Through May 31 2013. 2121 Allston Way Berkeley. 510-643-7526 Mapnes.org

Museum of the Africa Diaspora, Jewish Jewels, Gold African Jewelry and Photography from the Xavier Interactive Reopens Collection Presenting a interactive of North African out of the 19th and 20th centuries collected by Xavier Guerrero-Ramirez. Through Jan. 13 2013 free-$10. 685 Mission St. San Francisco, 415-358-7200. MOADSF.org

South Hall, Pop Theater: The 2000 Block of Telegraph Avenue, 1969-1973 With photographs of Telegraph Avenue in decades past, by artist Jan Breen, in room 106. Through Jan. 11 2013. UC Berkeley, Berkeley

Umpqua Museum of California, Kao and Movement Light: Valley of Museums, and Reopens With photographs. Berkeley California's Eli Hill Valley and highlighting the experiences of arts workers and their families. Through Dec. 31 **Playing With Fire** Celebrating the 50 year anniversary of the studio glass movement works from over twenty acclaimed California media. Wednesdays-Sundays, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Continues through Mar 24 $12. $800 Oak St., Oakland. 510-238-8448, MuseumCa.org.

Pacific Plated Museum, Volcano Visions Exhibit With 8 woodcuts and 20 weather-boards from Larry Zuckerman's interactive plus games representing daily patients from the collections of the artist. Jewish House, Ben Miller, and Michael Schenk. Daily $15 online 12 97 50 1550 Webster St., Museums, 510-748-1340 PacificPlated.org.

San Francisco Museums, of Require Art, Field Conditions With work by fellowship-and artists including Stan Allen Jacobs Rosenthal, and Sol LeWitt. Through Jan. 6, 2013. free-$10. Jan **DeFeet: It Retrospective** With collages, blueprints, and other materials, and sculptures and jewelry by the seminal Bay Area artist. through Feb. 3 2013. free-$10 and **Human, Perspectives** With oils and new work by the contextual artist. Through Jan 6, 2013. free-$10. **Motion and Beyond: The Painting and Goldsmith, Collection** Pieces from the museum's holdings, including work by Karla Mondrian Kiers Rauschenberg, Rivera Dieterhorn et al. Daily **Jewish Salon, Reopening with Mad's Eye View** Make it an eighty world in various media by six artists. Fridays Through Feb 3 2013. free $10 **Between Art and Life: The Contemporary Painting and Interactive Collection** Large-ice exhibitions and multiple-work presentations from the museum's collections. Daily **Richard Lacina-Kramer: Frequency and Volume** With work in various media by the Russian artist. through Feb. 3 2013. free-$10 **Six Hours of Flight: Shifting Geographies in Contemporary Art** For eight years Bay Area artists, an burgeoning contemporary art centers. Hours: Tuesday-Sunday 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Closed Mondays. Fr Ch Ann Cty Vietnam; San Francisco, United States, and Tangier Morocco. Through Dec. 31 **Week 18: The Art of Design: The Architecture and Design Collection** An ongoing presentation of works of architecture graphic design, and industrial design Daily **South African to Apartheid and After: Land Landmark, Event Cole Billy Black** Featuring documentary photography of the artists are on. Through Jan 13 2013. free $10 **New Work: Alessandra Pecoul** Featuring work by the painter and sculptor. Through Feb 10, 2013 free-$10 **Picasso, Museum: The Photography Collection** From the museum's vast holdings, Spanish by artists. Curated by Art Events. Lange Stangler et al Daily 11-5 Fri 5-9 San Francisco 415-337-4000 SFMOMA.org. **UBS Nexus Museum, Black Soldiers' Experience** Photos in the exhibition telling the story of the race troops who fought for the US in WWII. Daily. 762 Fulton Ave., Museum, 510-821-8448 UBS-Nexus.org

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THEATER & DANCE

Please check with venues before heading out; some events may be cancelled or moved due to the holiday.

COMEDY

Black Male In The White House: The Second Term Tour Featuring comedian Paul Mooney. Through Jan. 1. 2013 510-790 Black Repertory Theatre 3201 Adeline St., Berkeley. 510-812-2121

Comedy Open Mic Sign-ups at 6 p.m. Each comic gets 3-5 minutes, with up to a $100 cash prize for winner. First and third Tuesday of every month 7 p.m. $5 Sammy T's Comedy Steakhouse, 3284 Keyport Rd., Pleasanton. 925-227-1800 sammyts.com.

Josh Kornbluth in "Red Diaper Baby" Comically acclaimed one-man show about a young boy who believes his mom grew up to host a movement meditation in Kinshasa, Zaire. Dec. 31 7 & 10 p.m. $30 Rhythmix Cultural Works, 2513 Hillegass Ave., Berkeley. 510-849-5900 rhythmix.org.

The Last Laugh With Samson Bentley and various comics. Fridays, Saturdays, 10:30 p.m. $8-$10. The Last Laugh, next to BART station, 2128 Broadway, Oakland. 813-251-1641 Punchlaugh.com

Laugh n' Play Absurdist hosts local stand-up comics, with music by DJ Yadda, on the first and third Saturdays, fourth and second Thursday of every month 8 p.m. FREE Club Anton, 375 2nd St., Oakland.

New Year's Eve Comedy at Farley's East Farley's last comedy event of the year, hosted by local favorite Natasha Muse. Featuring Colleen Watson (SF & Sacramento Punchline), Kelly Saunders (Hotel Bancalari, Fairfield), Reyna Arana (Comedy Store, Hella Funny, Flying Saucer, Modesto Bentley (SF Punchline), and headliner Kevin Cassa (Comedy Central, Mad Dog). 31 7:30-9 p.m. free Farley's East, 33 Grand Ave., Oakland. 510-834-1900 FarleysCoffee.com

New Years Eve Comedy Celebration with Leonard G Theatre Featuring headline Leonard Jaimez (by comedienne Kabir Kaleesay Singh, New York Monterey, Chris Spohn, and Eric G Martin The Mayor of Comedy. With Big Al Gonzalez as host. Mon., Dec. 31 7 & 10 p.m. $40-$100 Bal Theatre 1400-B East 14th St. San Leandro. 510-614-1224

Not Your Normal New Years Eve A night of stand-up, live music, and a massive balloon drop at 10pm! Mon. Dec. 31 7:00 p.m. $25-45 Herbst Theatre, 401 Van Ness Ave. San Francisco, 415-392-4400

NYE Magic Comedy Explosion Featuring comedians Earthquake, Arnaud and special guests. Mon., Dec. 31, 10:30 p.m. $50-80. Paramount Theatre 2025 Broadway, Oakland. ParamountTheatre.com.

Open Mic Comedy A weekly open mic for both veteran and up-and-coming comedians. Sundays, 6 p.m. sets done minutes.

Continental Club, 1555 12th St., Oakland. 510-873-8613 ContinentalClub-omedy.com

The Sandwood Stories by David Sweeney The anti-holiday! tellers nonetheless for an 11th year. Nominated for a SF Bay Area Theatre Critics Circle Award! Six free Sale Performances: Thursdays, Fridays, 8 p.m. This time 27 & 28 p.m. Sat. Dec. 29 8 p.m. Continues through Dec. 28 $20-35. The Eureka Theatre, 215 Jackson St., San Francisco. (415) 788-7400 EurekaTheatre.org

Saturday Comedy Open mic comedy night hosted by DJ Patterson. Sign-ups at 8. Thursdays, 8:30-5 p.m. free Shark Club 2330 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-444-6164 SharkClubOakland.com.

Sunday Night Comedy and Poetry Hosted by Jeffrey Smith. Ages 21 and up. Sundays 8 p.m. OaSlyProductions.com Island Paradise Club, 1436 Webster St., Alameda. 510-986-3625. IslandParadiseClub.com.

The Untold Story With weekly improv comedy. Add'l shows announced soon. 8:30 p.m. Thursdays 8 p.m. 510-812. Pa[illegible] Op.

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815-291-1641 Pantheater.com
Wednesday Skaters Monthly Happy Hour Anything not stand up. Produced by Matt Spiegelman. Wednesdays, 6-7:30 p.m. free The Marsh Arts Center 2120 Allston Way, Berkeley. 510-104-8201 TheMarsh.org.

LIVE VARIETY

Naked Magic A drag show featuring Vegas Talks Randy Pack, Stevie Ray, Mickey Fine, Pepe Pan, Carrie Logan Cumsmell who many believed to assuming and Big Time and Evi Wednesday of every month, 8 p.m. 85 White Horse Inn 6551 Telegraph Ave. Oakland. 510-652-3823 WhiteHorseBar.com.

TDAF Featuring "famed mentalist, Sebastian Fitzwell (joking mind reading demonstrations, as well as displaying "unique physical abilities." Fridays, 6-7:30 p.m. Continues through Jan. 25 free the Oasis Arts Center 2120 Allston Way, Berkeley. 510-104-8201 TheMarsh.org.

THEATER & PERFORMING ARTS

ARRR! YES! The Many Incarnations Of Mare Jane The Marsh Berkeley presents performances of Lynne Kaufman's critically acclaimed new play about the beginning of the psychedelic revolution. Thursdays-Saturdays, Saturdays, Sundays. Continues through Feb. 17 $15-35. The Marsh Arts Center, 2120 Allston Way, Berkeley. 510-104-8201 TheMarsh.org.

An TDAF Adapted from Hoopa by Rita Abrahamsen-Lisa Peterson aka Gloria O'Hare. Through Dec. 16. Check online for show times and tickets. Tuesdays-Sundays. 534-57 Berkeley Repertory Theatre 2025 Addison St., Shattuck 510 647 2949 BerkeleyRep.org.

The White Snake Tony Award-winning director Mary Zimmerman retells the world's most ancient of an ancient Chinese legend. Thu. Dec. 27 7:00 p.m. Fri. Dec. 28 8 p.m. Sat. Dec. 29 2 & 5 p.m. Sun. Dec. 30 2 & 7 p.m., $14-$0.495 Berkeley Repertory Theatre 2025 Addison St. Berkeley 510 647 2949 BerkeleyRep.org.

Wyzeck West Coast premiere of the musical adaptation of Georg Buchner's classic tragedy. Directed by Mark Jackson with music and lyrics by Tom Waits and Kathleen Brennan. Through Jan 13, 2013 7 p.m. Sundays, 5 p.m. Fridays, Saturdays 8 p.m. Continues through Jan 13 $21-$75 Ashby Stage, 1901 Ashby Ave., Berkeley. 510-[illegible] Op.

PICKS

Wuyzeck
Georg Buchner's Wozeck is a nihilistic tale of poverty and class inequality in 19th-century Germany. But in this top-notch production by the Shotgun Players, the play — as conceived by Robert Wilson and featuring the junkyard jazz of Tom Waits — brings theatricality and deadpan humor to the doom and gloom. The play is full of murals, converted, wedding dress heroes and the capitalist gluttons and warranted duchess who uphold them. Song titles such as "Misery Is the River of the World," "Everything Goes to Hell," and "God's Away on Business" pretty much say it all. The music itself is fraught with discord and chaos. There are lovely waltzes, deceptively tender ballads, assaulting percussion, lively big-band jams, and sarcastically upbeat numbers to distract. Director Mark Jackson's smart and dynamic production, looking into the abyss was never so enjoyable. Wozeck runs through January 27 at The Ashby Stage (1901 Ashby Ave., Berkeley). 510-841-6500 or 85shotgunPlayers.org.
— Erika Mikey



LECTURES & LIT

Please check with venues before heading out – some events may be cancelled or moved due to the holiday.

LITERARY EVENTS

Art Beat Writers Society Write Girl Creeks leads a weekly writing and performance workshop designed to generate new material and create a sustainable community of Bay Area writers. Mondays, 7-9:30 p.m. Can Creeks.com The 25th Street Collective 477 25th St., Oakland 510-384-3340 25thStreetCollective.com

The East Bay Mystery Prisoner Group Visit webcast for month's titles. First Tuesday of every month, 7 p.m. CANCELed. Weldon Pond Books, 3316 Grand Ave, Oakland 510-832-4438, WeldonPondBooks.com

Bloc Book Exchange Give and get free used books of all genres and styles Saturdays, Sundays, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. free, 510-795-3290, BayAreaFreeBookExchange.com, Bay Area Free Book Exchange 10820 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito, 510-795-3290, BayAreaFreeBookExchange.com

Book Book and Spoonbeard 08 Thursdays Open mic poetry, followed at 10:30 p.m. by dancing, poetry rap food five $$$, and more Thursdays, 7:30 p.m., donations accepted EastSide Cultural Center 2277 International Blvd., Oakland 510-533-6629 EastsideArts@juno.com

Mystery Reading Group Group discussion of mystery novels. Facilitated by best-selling author Carl St. Mitchell. First Tuesday of every month, 6:30-8 p.m. Castro Valley Library 3600 Norbridge Ave., Castro Valley 510-667-7900 ACLibrary.org.

Food Not Bombs General Meeting Planning meeting for upcoming and ongoing Food Not Bombs meals. First Wednesday of every month, 7:30 p.m. free Long Haul 3124 Shattuck Ave Berkeley 510-548-0751 TheLongHaul.org.

Lawyers in the Library Services provided on a first-come, first-served basis. Sign up begins at 4:45 p.m. Call 510-597-5017 to confirm event. First Tuesday of every month, 5-7 p.m. free Oakland Public Library Rockridge Branch, 5366 College Ave Oakland 510-597-5017 OaklandLibrary.org

Prisoner Support Letter Writing Thursdays, 6 p.m. Long Haul 3124 Shattuck Ave Berkeley 510-548-0751 TheLongHaul.org.

PUBLIC INTEREST

Bankruptcy Lawyer in the Library Lottery sign-up begins at 5:45 p.m. First Wednesday of every month, 6-8 p.m. free Fruitvale Public Library Main Branch, 3225 East 14th St., Oakland, 510-238-6134, FolsomLibrary.org.

Food Not Bombs General Meeting Planning meeting for upcoming and

SPOKEN WORD

The Berkeley Slam With spoken word and performance and band or DJ hosted by Ross Gonzo. Bay Area DeWolf Bevan, and Katelyn Lucas. Cash prizes each week. Wednesdays, 8 p.m., $7 Starry Plough, 3101 Shattuck Ave Berkeley, 510-841-2087, StarryPlough.com

The Bloc Books A weekly open mic for up-and-coming spoken word artists, poets and comedians. Sign-up begins at 8 p.m. Tuesdays, 8:30 p.m., free Berryessa Corner, 5817 Shattuck Ave Oakland, 510-428-1935, BerryessaCorner.com.



Berkeley Jewish Slam host Jeffrey DeWolf

Poetry Diversified A twice-monthly open mic with featured readers, hosted by poetry ensemble Tres Series. First and third Tuesday of every month, 7:30-9 p.m. free World Ground Cafe, 3726 Mackenzie Blvd., Oakland, 510-482-2933, WorldGroundCafe.com.

Saturday Night Special: East Bay Open Mic A monthly open mic hosted by Hakim Hardy and Tauras Moniz. Last Saturday of every month, 7-9 p.m. free Nick's Lounge, 3218 Adeline St., Berkeley, 510-652-6425, NicksLounge.com

Writing Word Art Open Mic Night Poets, storytellers, musicians, and all other writers are invited to share their work. Arrive early to sign up. Second and fourth Fridays of every month, 7:30 p.m., free, FreeHackWritersEventArt.com, WritersWorkArt.com, Zazzle, CoffeePoems, 645 Ridge Ave., San Leandro, 510-569-2102, ZombieCoffeehouse.com.

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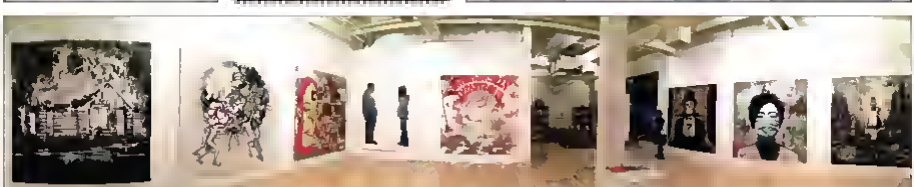
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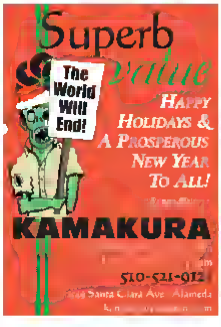
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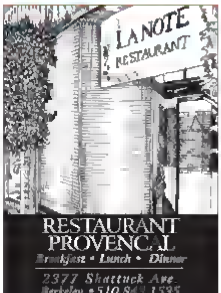


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Ayam penyet smashed fried chicken is pure comfort food

Cass Dot ry

THE SCHOOL OF SAMBAL

Padi provides a taste of home for Indonesian expats. For the rest of us, it's a great introduction to the fiery pleasures of Sumatran-style cooking.

Luke Tsai

At first I couldn't decide whether Padi, the new Indonesian restaurant in Berkeley's Elmwood district, passed my Eyeball Test of Authenticity for Asian restaurants — that urbanian set of criteria wherein I consider, for instance, whether a place has mostly an Asian clientele (it did) and whether chopsticks are routinely offered (they weren't). Mostly I was struck by how the former home of Holy Land an Israeli restaurant still looked the same — more like a falafel joint than anything distinctly Asian, with tile tabletops and the faux balcony windows that were originally meant to evoke Greece or rural Israel or somewhere.

But what do I know about authenticity? It turns out forks and spoons are the traditional Indonesian dining implements. And after two excellent meals — rich after dish that was fragrant, with fried shallot and shrimp paste and best of all the restaurant's house-made red chili sauce — I was willing to take chef/owner Jimmy Sujanto at his word when he touted Padi as one of the few places in the Bay Area where Indonesian expats can get food that tastes like it does back in the motherland.

Padi's stock in trade is its *sambal* the fiery chile-based condiment that Indonesians slather on everything like ketchup. There are probably hundreds of different varieties in Indonesia alone, but Sujanto makes four: one that is sweet and tangy, and others that are intensely pungent. Padi's thick red *sambal* is the version known as *sambal blanehan* (or *belacan*) — a delicious, and seriously spicy blend of freshly ground Thai chilies lime juice, tomatoes, and shrimp paste (for just a hint of funky funk).

The *sambal* plays the leading role in one of Padi's best dishes, *ayam penyet*: pieces of chicken that are fried until the skin crisps then smashed — with the back of a heavy cleaver, I presume — and smothered in *sambal* which penetrates all the crevices of the still juicy meat. The sauce is great too on a plate of hard-boiled eggs that have been batter-fried — pure comfort food especially over white rice.

Here's a pro tip: Unless you're a hard-core chile fanatic (or a glutton for punishment), think twice before you request anything "crazy spicy" (as per the menu description). I'm not a total spice coward, but the "medium" level hit the upper limits of my tolerance — I was drenched in sweat by the end of the meal. The higher the spice level, the less tomato is added to cut into the chiles the "crazy spicy" version is pure unadulterated heat. (Not coincidentally, Sujanto hails from the island of Sumatra, where the food tends to be spicier and less sweet, than what's served in the capital city Jakarta — if you're curious about that other style, head to Jayakarta on University Avenue.)

Fortunately even if you're a spice wimp, Padi also serves a number of excellent dishes with little to no chile kick. The house specialty, is the *bakso kampung* handmade beef meatballs served in a clear broth with earthy fried shallots and tender Chinese greens — a lovely soup for a cold day. And the variously-shaped fried fish cakes, which Sujanto makes from scratch with Spanish mackerel were chewy and succulent served in the traditional Palembang style — over noodles and sliced cucumber with a sweet and (not very) spicy vinegar dipping sauce on the side.

Slightly less successful dishes: The beef *rendang* a classic coconut based curry was slowly simmered, but the cut of beef used was so lean that the end product was more dry than melt in your-mouth tender. The flavor was good though — heavy on the star anise and slightly reminiscent of beef jerky. Meanwhile, the *udang panggang* (grilled marinated shrimp) had a nice smoky char, but the shrimp were cooked until somewhat dry and chewy, leading me to think that moistness isn't the quality most prized in Indonesian meat preparation. The texture grew on me (again I think shrimp jerky) but at $12.95 for three small skewers, it isn't one of the better deals on the menu.

Sujanto sources all of his beef and chicken from Halal butcher shops. The Halal designation is also why the restaurant doesn't serve alcohol though Sujanto said he's looking into getting a license so diners can bring their own. (The spicier dishes beg for cold beer, though a glass of Teh Botol — a bottled iced jasmine tea popular in Indonesia — also makes a fine accompaniment.)

Padi is also a good place for vegetarian diners, as meatless dishes comprise more than a quarter of the menu. I especially liked the *sate gareng kampung* an addictive Indonesian-Chinese stir-fried noodle dish chewy egg noodles tossed with Chinese broccoli bean sprouts, fried shallots and *kecap manis* (a slightly sweet Indonesian soy sauce). It's a nice counterpoint if you've ordered mostly spicy dishes.

Meanwhile, for sole diners, the daily rice plate ($8.95) is an excellent option — a little taste of four different menu items some kind of meat, one of those fried boiled eggs a soup, and maybe an Indonesian-style potato pancake.

One minor quibble: The kitchen turns out orders quickly and if you don't specify otherwise the food tends to come out all at once. That's great for family-style dining, but not so great when four dishes take up nearly every inch of real estate on a two-top. If Padi ever moves to bigger digs, the first order of business should be to get big round tables fitted with Lazy Susans. (Then there'll be no question it's an authentic Asian restaurant.)

For my last meal at Padi I ordered grilled plantains topped with cheddar cheese, sweet condensed milk, and melted chocolate sprinkles — apparently a popular dessert in Indonesia. The nicest thing I can say about it is that it wasn't gross — the savoriness of the cheese working somehow. But as with many of the dishes at Padi, I was glad that I had tried something new.

Padi
2965 College Ave. Berkeley
510-841-1810
Hours: Daily 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.
Reservations accepted
Cash all major credit cards

Sample Menu

Bakso Kampung (Beef Ball Soup)	$6.95
Pempek Palembang (Fish Cake)	$7.95
Mie Goreng Kampung (Egg Noodles)	$6.95
Ayam Penyet (Smashed Fried Chicken)	$9.95
Pisang Bakar Keju (Grilled Plantains)	$4.95

Luke Tsai@EastBayExpress.com

WHAT THE FORK

OAKLAND'S FOOD TRUCK FUTURE IN LIMBO

One year into a promising interim policy the future of mobile food in Oakland remains uncertain

By Luke Tsai

This year got off to such a promising start for Oakland's seemingly limitless population of street-food enthusiasts — and for the mobile food vendors who want to feed them. A newly passed interim policy allowed food trucks, for the first time to operate weekly at approved locations outside of the Fruitvale district, as long as they were clustered into permit-carrying "pods" of three or more trucks.

It was easy to imagine that dozens of these so-called "food pods" would spring up all over Oakland — the first shots fired in a bloodless revolution of gourmet cupcakes and Asian-fusion tacos. People would come out in droves, and buoyed by that success, city officials would quickly move to make mobile food — beyond taco trucks in Fruitvale — a permanent fixture in Oakland's culinary landscape.

But the fact of the matter is that Oakland's food pod experiment saw only minor successes in 2012. Citywide just seven group-vending locations were established. And two of the pods (the Thursday night pod in front of Splash Pad Park and the Tuesday lunchtime Clay Pod at the intersection of Clay and 14th streets) closed down earlier than planned — despite the fact that the City of Oakland recently extended its one-year pilot program allowing existing food pods to continue running at least through July 1, 2013. According to the organizers of those two pods, there was never enough business to justify the ongoing expense of weekly permitting fees.

Meanwhile city officials don't appear to be much closer to reaching an agreement on a permanent mobile food policy that would ensure that food trucks would be able to operate in Oakland beyond July.

"Here it is a year later and we don't even have anything to present to [city] council for a permanent policy," said Karen Hester, the organizer of the Bites Off Broadway food pod which is closed for the winter months. "It just seems like foot dragging, in my opinion."

According to Hester, one of the biggest reasons the food pod program hasn't taken off is that the barriers to entry are too high — more than $600 upfront to apply, plus a couple hundred dollars each week to cover permits, parking meters, and so forth. (When the city extended the interim program it did reduce the base weekly permit fee from $100 to $90 — a nice gesture, Hester said, though she wishes the price would be slashed even further.)

Gail Lillian, owner of the Liba Falafel food truck and organizer of the now-defunct Clay Pod, stressed that city administrators have been nothing if not supportive. But she too has been frustrated that Oakland hasn't moved more quickly on the legislation front.

"It was hard to run a pod this year thinking it was just going to end in January," Lillian said.

For their part, city officials note that Oakland simply doesn't have the resources to make mobile food vending one of its highest priorities. Alisa Shen, the city planner who has taken the lead role on mobile food, has a host of other major projects she's coordinating — she's only able to work on the mobile food policy when she happens to have some free time.

Short staffing aside, one of the biggest holdups has been the issue of enforcement. If the interim mobile food policy has failed, it's in large part because the city has lacked the wherewithal or the political willpower to actively enforce that policy — that is, to discourage renegade trucks who flout the law and hawk their wares guerilla-style, part of no pod and having pulled no permit.

And why should these solo operators trouble themselves to join a food pod when there's little consequence to breaking the law? Arturo Sanchez, the deputy city administrator, said that, in theory, violators should be charged with a misdemeanor for selling without a permit. But he acknowledged that the reality is that in a city with as much crime as Oakland, the police just aren't going to respond to those kinds of complaints — complaints that are infrequent anyway.

Edward Manasse, Oakland's strategic planning manager, conceded that at present there almost certainly are more trucks operating in the city illegally than legally. He and Sanchez both believe the new mobile food policy needs

DESPITE SKEPTICISM FROM SOME FOOD POD ORGANIZERS, MANASSE SAID THE CITY IS COMMITTED TO GETTING A PERMANENT MOBILE FOOD POLICY.

to include some mechanism that wouldn't put the burden of enforcement on the police but perhaps on a person or group of people who would, as a portion of their job, make sure that food trucks abide by the law.

Despite the skepticism from some food pod organizers, Manasse said the city is committed to getting a permanent mobile food policy drawn up before the pilot program expires — ideally by April or May, he said. That new policy would likely include some way for individual food trucks to operate legally outside of the pod format. Also on the table: the reduction in fees that Hester would love to see, perhaps by means of changing the framework so that pod organizers and individual food trucks could pay an annual rather than per-event fee.

According to Shen, the next steps include an online survey (asking, among other things, where in the city people would like to see more food trucks) and a meeting with a group of stakeholders (food truck owners, the restaurant association, etc.) that will probably take place in early 2013.

"I think that we're making baby steps," Shen said, adding that, in spite of how it may appear, "We are really excited and committed to having a program in place."

Luke.Tsai@EastBayExpress.com

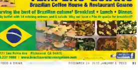
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1054 Hollis (at Dwight Way), Berkeley; 510-848-4015. Maybe it's the leafy green shade on the walls or the faux fountain's gentle gurgle, but you get the feeling of a soothing respite—no matter how hectic the day—upon entering this Thai eatery in the heart of what has become known as Berkeley's Little Bank. The menu is casual-pleasing, homey pak kard (steamed radish mixed and pepper (crispy vegetable rolls) are two small plates of note, and the tasty pad Thai stews clear of that gloppiness together noodle refuse. Lovers of fried banana should try Anchalee's version, served with a generous helping of coconut ice cream. $6

Bangkok Thai Cuisine

1475 University Ave., Berkeley; 510-848-6483. Bangkok Thai isn't fancy, just a reliable, casual, affordable Berkeley Avenue standards such as the roasted duck and crispy basil chicken are consistently good, as are the green, red, and Panang curries. $

Battambang Restaurant

869 Brush Street, Oakland; 510-893-8815. Battambang is not just the best Cambodian restaurant in the East Bay, it composes the best Southeast Asian. Don't measure the restaurant by its stories, which may be too mild and sweet for diners weaned on Thai food. Instead focus on the spice-rubbed grilled meats, wide array of Buddhist vegetarian dishes, and the house specialty salad near the back of the menu. $-$$

Cho Am

1543 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley; 510-848-9664. Espresso readers frequent choice for Best Southeast Asian Restaurant, this upstairs nook has had its ups and downs both in terms of food and service. On good days the vegetarian pad Thai is chock-full and sweet while a seafood-rich menu offers lots of possibilities, such as curried prawns. A blend of fresh Thai herbs goes into every dish. $–$$

Champa Garden

2132 Bush Ave., Oakland; 510-238-1880. Tucked away in a residential neighborhood, Champa Garden's menu resembles a set of Russian nesting dolls. Hidden among its hundred-plus Thai dishes — all the old standards — are a few Lao and Vietnamese specialties, as well as one or two dishes from the Lue and Mien peoples. Go Lao, ordering things like the unique raw beef salad, larb (ground meat salad) and Lao and Lue noodle soups. For the specials board, the cooks also get creative with fish, tropical fruits, and curry pastes. $

Golden Lotus Vegetarian Restaurant

4304 Hamilton St., Oakland; 510-893-0383. The sign you'll find a lot of it on the menu at Golden Lotus, every nugget of flesh is actually a skillful gluten facsimile. This Vietnamese and Chinese restaurant serves brightly flavored, fresh, inexpensive vegetarian fare. Many under the grilled chicken, the Vietnamese noodle dishes, and the hot pot, as menu at lunch be quick to-go combo plates. Golden Lotus is run by followers of Supreme Master Ching Hai, a Buddhist spiritual master and fashion designer. $

Green Papaya Deli

207 1st St., #H—Hill, Oakland; 510-834-3581. This tiny, friendly International Boulevard eatery prepares and serves some of the Bay Area's brightest, tastiest Lao cuisine: a duck larb (salad) tinged with fresh herbs and lime; intensely flavored chopped catfish steamed in banana leaves; chicken noodle soup fragrant with ginger chilies, and coconut; sausages made of fermented raw pork and lemongrass, onions, and peppers. There are Thai specialties as well (the beef pad kee mao with thick noodles is especially satisfying), and don't forget to order plenty of sticky rice, a Laotian requirement. No liquor but the sweet, creamy soy milk and Thai iced coffee are worth ordering. $

Hawker Fare

2066 Webster St., Oakland; 510-832-8896. Al Cominis, James Syhabout proof fast over deceptively complex dishes juxtaposing subtle scales of flavor. At Hawker Fare, he seeks the kind of food he likes to unwind with after clocking twelve hours in the tone-dialing mill. Syhabout — who grew up in Oakland, and whose family has roots in Northeast Thailand — has compiled a short list of Asian rice bowls with the likes of uncompromising flavors he recalls from his mom's kitchen, executed with the tools of a Michelin-starred kitchen (hint: the immersion circulator never stops whirring), like long-cooked pork belly and a Northeast Thai version of Hainanese chicken rice. $

Jayakarta

2020 Bonita Ave., Berkeley; 510-841-0884. Concentrated and meaty is how you'd describe Betawi cooking, Jakarta's original food. Owner and chef Ivanti Jia grew up in Indonesia's capital and her beautifully layered Betawi dishes eat like love letters home. Cornflower sauce on the lush side, skewers is as rich as a pat of butter melting onto a steak, white tripe-studded soto betawi, a galangal flavored soup, practically glows. The dining room is bare, bland, and quiet, but it only makes for a food shine all the brighter. $–$$

Old Wang Ping Village

[illegible] MacArthur Blvd., Oakland; 510-531-3677. For a town 3 plus years Pat and Jack Kwanyuthira have owned this funky thatched roof restaurant which looks like it arose between a beachside hut and a tapioca diner. Thai cuisine, fortunately food is far more appealing than the sugar- and coconut-drowned fare you'll find at most Thai restaurants. Mix and match your favorite meats, veggies, and sauces from the menu, or order all the specials board, which sometimes features rare ingredients the owners bring back with them from Thailand. $$

Phnom Penh House

3942 Telegraph Ave., Oakland; 510-482-8686. Cambodian food good enough that you'll swear you're eating it in a sticky-table dive not a stylish, comfortable neighborhood bistro. The curries and the fish amok (salmon mousse) can be too mild for their own good, but dishes like the stuffed chicken wings, fiddlehead tamarind-tinged soups and space-rubbed meat skewers pass the authenticity test with flying colors. $–$$

Pin Toh

2271 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley; 510-845-8424. 3072 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley; 510-848-8424. Pin Toh's sliding sashes distill among Berkley's many Thai restaurants with a boon knack for cooking fresh vegetables to such perfection that their freshness is the first thing you notice about every dish. Even humble carrots, cabbage, and broccoli shine. Vietnamese pho accompanies many classic Thai dishes, from satay to tom kha to Thai iced tea, in a stylishly green-lit, black-ceilinged space that veers in daytime evokes the moody noirs of a spacecraft doubling as a dance club. A separate 37-item vegetarian menu augments the standard Americanized menu, offering meat-free version and intriguing entrées such as a house-special pumpkin curry and a cashew-based stir-fry. $

Plearn

2031 University Ave., Berkeley; 510-549-9999. Amid silvery elegance diners expand their curry-and-coconut horizons. Highlights include sliced barbecued beef served atop fresh mint leaves, lime-seasoned calamari, and a range of soups and noodle dishes redolent of lemongrass and five-alarm chilis. Pictures of Tiger Woods near the cash register are there because the owner knows the golfer's mom. $$

5014 Bangkok Eatery

5014 College Ave., Oakland; 510-653-5889. As its name suggests, 5014 serves high-concept Thai cuisine for the high-cheekbone crowd. Luckily the food is more

RECENTLY REVIEWED

Nick's Pizza

2311 Shattuck Ave., Oakland, 510-658-3903. "Oakland-style pizza" sounds like it might be the punchline to a mad joke, or at the very least, a marketing ploy. In truth, the moniker is the conceit of Nick Vapor-Cuse, an Oakland native who opened Nick's Pizza in the spring of 2012. Nick's really does serve a style of pizza that is largely unique to the Bay Area: locally sourced seasonal toppings and a sourdough crust. If a the Cheese Board or Arrumendi approach, except with meat. And the pizza at Nick's is pretty good — both the organic sourdough crust (which combines an appealing chewiness with a bottom crust that stays crispy) and the seasonal toppings, which rotate from week to week. While it's hard to pass up pizza topped with apples and pulled pork, or prosciutto and arugula, one of the best pies is the basic pepperoni: a full-flavored, perfectly balanced classic. $–$$

Belli Osteria

3016 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley 510-704-1902. When Paul Ogrodzki opened Belli Osteria, a farmhouse Italian restaurant in downtown Berkeley, he saw there was a niche that hadn't been filled: No one was giving cavish fine dining respect. While his fresh pasta dishes, Osteria marries Old World cooking methods with the creativity made possible by the bountiful produce of Northern California. The results are mostly quite good. Belli's rustic, handmade, oversize ravioli may not have the melt-in-your-mouth tenderness of the most delicate fresh pastas, but they make up for it in the quality of the fillings, which rotate with the seasons. One featured mellow sweet potatoes, roasted garlic, and goat cheese; another had savory cabbage and braised pork, and yet another a black squid-ink ravioli was filled with shrimp and spinach. Priced aren't low for the portion size, but lunch — priced at two to three dollars less per entrée — is a decent deal. $$$

Destino

3359 Grand Ave., Oakland, 510-788-4152. After more than a decade serving upscale American comfort food, restaurateur Gary Bazo has hopped into a new brand: Latin-American restaurants that take traditional fare and gussy it up with high-quality local, seasonal ingredients. Destino, Bazo's new spot on Grand Avenue has a Mexico City–trained chef in Marisol del Rio and a share-friendly menu that draws inspiration mostly from Central Mexican cuisine — everything well sourced and skillfully prepared. The menu changes every few weeks, and while a few items seem to play it too safe (in terms of spice level and overall ambitiousness), you won't be disappointed in the fresh simplicity of dishes like the *nopalitos con ole ovarios* (little corn cakes topped beautifully with sausage, queso fresco, guacamole, and a wonderfully smoky black chile sauce), the perfectly grilled baby squid, and the meaty (and bargain-priced) chile relleno. $$–$$$

Elevation 66

3008 S. El Camino Real Ave., San Mateo, 650-525-8800. Can a small family-friendly bar in the burbs — whose chef's background is Italian cooking — pull off a food program that reaches across the globe, taking detours in Hawaii, Korea, Peru, Argentina, and Germany? The answer, it turns out, is yes. The gastropub grub at Elevation 66 is not skillfully prepared as it is eclectic, making the hand a big draw alongside the brewery's impressive selection of craft beers. The menu plunges every couple of months, but highlights during our visits included exceptionally juicy Kalua pork tacos (from Hawaii), house-made sausages served over curry-flavored spaetzle and sauerkraut (Germany), and a wagyu beef burger whose only "ethnic" component was a mustardy curry slaw — the best of that burger's A-plus building blocks. Needless to say everything on the menu goes well with a cold beer. $$–$$$

Vientian Cafe

3861 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-595-2218. Pity this one under "worth a detour" Vientian Cafe, a Laotian restaurant situated in a completely residential stretch of East Oakland, turns out to be one of best places around for down-home Lao food. The restaurant offers a broad range of Southeast Asian cuisines, but the key to a stellar meal is to ask for the separate "Lao Specialties" menu, where almost every item costs $5 or less, without a clunker among them. Highlights include the *larb nam tuto* (crispy rice ball salad) in town, the super-crunchy baked *sai oo* (fermented sausage) and the *mok pa* — chunks of catfish that are covered in aromatics, then steamed inside a banana leaf until the whole thing coheres together like a terrine: tender, succulent, and incredibly fragrant. Round out your meal with an order of sticky rice, the staple of Lao cuisine. $–$$







affordable than you would infer from the chic room. Stick with the mussel dishes and salads — the beef short ribs and vegetable dishes are great. Curries, however, tend toward the insipid. Finish off your meal with prime fusion desserts. $$

Thai Delight Cuisine

1700 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley 510-549-0611. Organic Thai food? Only in North Berkeley. Thai Delight's chef-owners has created a small organic menu — with slight-to-glier prices to supplement her reasonably priced regular menu of familiar Thai entrées. The food tends toward the sugary but if a fresh and well prepared, and the service is friendly and omnipotent. A plus: The tables are spread far enough apart le yeu te hear your conversation, not everyone else's. $–$$

Vientian Cafe

3861 Allendale Ave., Oakland, 510-535-2218. Pity this one under "worth a detour" Vientian Cafe, a Laotian restaurant situated in a completely residential stretch of East Oakland, turns out to be one of best places around for down-home Lao food. The restaurant offers a broad range of Southeast Asian cuisines, but the key to a stellar meal is to ask for the separate "Lao Specialties" menu, where almost every item costs $5 or less, without a clunker among them. Highlights include the *larb nam tuto* (crispy rice ball salad) in town, the super-crunchy baked *sai oo* (fermented sausage) and the *mok pa* — chunks of catfish that are covered in aromatics, then steamed inside a banana leaf until the whole thing coheres together like a terrine: tender, succulent, and incredibly fragrant. Round out your meal with an order of sticky rice, the staple of Lao cuisine. $–$$

Wat Nongkolvatanaram

1911 Russell St., Berkeley 510-849-3449. Every Sunday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., this Thai Buddhist temple serves brunch to the public. You'll find steam-table sautéed dishes and prepared spring rolls, but also made-to-order curries and fried chicken with sticky rice, and a group of warm, funny temple members dishing out the food. Don't pass up foods you don't find in restaurants, such as the lemongrass and chile-flecked sausage and the amazing coconut milk custard pancakes. A little-known but phenomenal Berkeley institution. $

Price Key
Price codes assume diners will order a main course and beverage, share appetizers and desserts, and tip adequately: $ — up to $10 per person; $$ — $10-$25; $$$ — $25-$50; $$$$ — more than $50

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LAST CALL

PRINCE ANDRÉ

I tried every flavor so you don't have to.

By Ellen Cushing

And so we come to the weak between Christmas and New Year's, when bars are weirdly empty (and/or full of every single person you went to high school with; pick your poison!) and our thoughts turn to a) cheap champagne and b) bad decisions. To wit: The First and Hopefully Only Annual André Taste Test.

In case you grew up Mormon André is a California sparkling wine that has somehow been grandfathered into being able to still call itself champagne. It comes in a rainbow of flavors, retails for about $4.99 anywhere fine liquors are sold, and is beloved by high-school students everywhere, if that tells you anything. It is objectively terrible and yet the best-selling brand of sparkling wine in the United States. It comes in eight flavors, and yet they all taste mouth-the-same. Andre is an enigma, an institution, a way of life. The only way to crack its code is through rigorous use of the scientific method. And Best Wines were tasted by a panel of twelve blindly and in random order, through the "blind" part sort of fell by the wayside pretty quickly. Each was scored on a scale of one to ten with one being the Worst Possible André Experience and ten being the Best Possible André Experience. (It was quickly decided that comparing these to other champagnes would be both fruitless and cruel. Champagne is to André as an organic orange ludvigly hand-grown by Alice Waters herself is to an orange Otter Pop.) Scores were awarded individually and then averaged. The results:



Spumante

This the first specimen, was bubbly, light and decently appley. Subjects, in their first drink-of-the-night naiveté, declared it "very sweet," but nonetheless "delicious." Score 6.65.

Strawberry

First the aroma. "There's definitely a slightly moldy smell to this one," observed Rina almost immediately and not incorrectly. "It tastes like your grandma's candy dish was in the candy bowl for forty years," offered Emma, while Misha said it tasted like its color — a mildly whorly, unnatural bubblegum pink. Everyone hated it. "My tongue itches," said Emma. Score: 2.72

Extra Dry

Perhaps unsurprisingly, this one was the least sweet of the bunch, though calling something the least sweet André is probably just about the most meaningless thing you can say about anything, ever. At any rate, most subjects liked it though they couldn't necessarily point out why. "I don't have any descriptors other than André," said Express calendar editor Azeen aptly. Really, extra-dry's quality is the lack of qualities. Indra, an ACTUAL WINE PROFESSIONAL, declared that it "taste[d] legitimately better than the rest — but not like champagne." Score: A whopping 7.23.

Peach Passion

Peach Passion is arguably the platonic ideal of André. Pastel-colored, artificially flavored, unnaturally aromatic — weirdly compelling. "It tastes like if you woke up in the morning after a boozy night of drinking and then had a peach ring," declared Misha. "Stale and boozy." Which, depending on your opinions of those things, could, I suppose, be taken to be good or bad. Otherwise: It was described as tasting "dusty" (by Rina), "painfully sweet" (by Jenn), and "unequivocally terrible" (by me). Subjects were split on where this one fell compared to #2, Strawberry, with most ultimately scoring it slightly higher. "It's making my teeth hurt, but I love it," said Robyn, ostensibly as a compliment, while Jenn applauded Peach Passion's "assertiveness," and ACTUAL WINE PROFESSIONAL Indra said she liked it as well. Others however took to simply to express their disgust. "You know how if you want really bad quality jewelry your skin gets a rash?" asked Steven. "That's how my mouth is reacting right now." Score: 4.07

Cold Duck

Cold Duck is, according to the infinite wisdom of Wikipedia, "a sparkling wine made in the United States," with a recipe "based on a traditional German custom of mixing all the dregs of unfinished wine bottles with champagne." Sounds promising! André's Cold Ducks brught purpley red, intensely sweet and imperceptibly alcoholic. Emily likened it to grape soda and literally every Jew in the room immediately made the carbonated Manischewitz connection. "It tastes like purple," Steven said, while Rina detected notes of blackberry that it should be stored here with certainty surely did not exist. Score: 5.88.

Pinot Grigio

This was immediately deemed the wildest, most unnatural least inoffensive of the lot thus far. Alex suggested that it "taste[d] like real wine," especially seeing as it was also the least bubbly of the bunch, while Azeen declared it "versatile" though Emily was less convinced. "It's like it tried to be dry but instead it's just sour," she said. "Let the record show that I already have a headache," said Emma. Score: 7.26

Blush

"It's not that I like it, it's just that I don't have any obvious complaints," offered Misha, apparently at something of a loss for words. Azeen said she didn't think she'd be able to drink a full glass of it, Jenn said it got "progressively worse, with each sip." Steven said he felt like he was being hazed. Score: 6.03

Brut

The last wine was also the easy winner almost as quickly as the subjects tasted it. "It's not too sweet," said Misha before quickly correcting himself. "Well it is too sweet but not too too sweet." Fair enough. Robyn declared it "quite the bubblicious treat," though I'm fairly certain she was pretty drunk at that point. "It's inoffensive as all I can say," added Ben. Score: 8.89. A winner emerges victorious! A consensus has been reached! A roomful of burned and sugar-high André aficionados takes a nap and/or goes out to get a burrito!

Ellen.Cushing@EastBayExpress.com

FOOD & WINE

CULINARY & WINE

Celebrate New Year's Eve at Cuisine to Sarkozy Bring a favorite wine into the restaurant with vegan and omnivore choices for each course, and it will be corkage free; pairing seasonal fare an additional $25.00. Menu highlights will include crudo offerings with caviar and crab and Chateau d'Yquem amber fish entrée, and an aged gruyere bar tartine. Mon., Dec. 31, 5-10 p.m., $95. Cuisine Z'Yquem, 1581 Solano Ave., Berkeley. 510-898-0400. cuisinezsarkozy-restaurant.com

Celebrate New Year's Eve at Chaise Cafe Start Saturday the regular à la carte menu plus, on a pre-order basis, add Oakland's latest seafood palace à la carte menu options. Oakland's true giant of nightlife wine open early and a mesmerizing music from 10pm-2am. Mon., Dec. 31, 8 p.m.-2 a.m., $10. Chaise, 827 Broadway at 9th St., Oakland. 510-272-0118. ChaiseOak.com.

Celebrate New Year's Eve at Lake Chalet in Oakland A tantalizing à la carte menu with Island cocktail including Ragtime with Prosecco Poached Oysters Tempura Tuna Tenderloin with Bone Marrow Crust; Garlic-Sesame Crusted Ahi Tuna; Red Wine Braised Short Rib; and Honey Bay Farms Baby Beet Salad. Guests ordering three or more courses from the holiday menu will each receive a complimentary glass of sparkling wine. Mon., Dec. 31, 5-10 p.m. Lake Chalet, 1520 Lakeside Dr., Oakland. 510-208-5253. TheLakeChalet.com.

Celebrate New Year's Eve at Pizzaiolo Featuring Pizzaiolo Jeremy Tittel and new co-pilot Chad Shuck, as well as a whole night of music by Sleepy Jungleboy, an eleven-piece Afrobeat band from Brooklyn. Mon., Dec. 31, 8 p.m.-1 a.m. $45. Pizzaiolo, 5008 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-652-4888. PizzaioloOakland.com.

Chopp New Year's Eve Five-course menu including scallops with bacon, lentils and cranberries; choice of dungeness crab and mushroom beef tenderloin with brioche polenta, and a Oakland and winter torte. Mon., Dec. 31, 6 & 9 p.m., $60 pre-fee. $80 with wine pairings. Info: (925) Piedmont Ave., Oakland. 510-653-3610. ChoppOakland.com/eggs.

Farmstead Wine Tasting Hosted by Farmstead's knowledgeable staff, with all proceeds go to local schools. Thursday, Dec. 3-7 p.m., Saturday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. $1 per flight. Farmstead Cheeses & Wines. 4918 La Salle Ave., Oakland. 510-864-8468. FarmsteadCheesesAndWines.com.

Last Sunday Brunch With Pizzaiolo's entrepreneurs and more. Last Sunday of every month, 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Caffe 817. 817 Washington St., Oakland. 94607. 7867. CaffeS17.com

New Year's Eve Appetizer "Noodle" A free-course family-style menu linking inspiration from the traditional barbeque feasts of Argentina. Mon., Dec. 31, 8 p.m. $78. Boneyard, 55 Webster St., Oakland. 510-444-7733. Boneyard.com

New Years Eve at Bogo Italia A multiple-number Island meal, "Calendario con Ignitibile e Pure" offered à la carte with commercial sausage lentils, and potato gratin, the traditional meal is set to bring good luck and health for the coming year. Dinners of Prosecco Island at and $6.00.

Mon., Dec. 31 8 p.m.-midnight. Bogo Italia, 4099 19th St., Oakland. 510-251-1000. BogoItaliaOakland.com

NYE at Benchmark Pizzeria An Island enjoyed four-course meal from the wood oven featuring scallops, Dungeness with caramelized salt-baked Ahi meat of beef, and apple pie Mon., Dec. 31, 6 & 7:30 p.m. $60 pre-fee $100 with wine pairings. Benchmark Pizzeria. 1581 Park View Avenue, Kensington.

Ring in and New Year at Camel Featuring Latin and Rock music by longtime Bay Area DJ Jose Rue (KPFA, KPOO). Oakland Supermarket-style street cuisine, like quesadillas, tamales, tostadas, and more. Special New Years Eve cocktails available for Oakland. Mon., Dec. 31, 9 p.m.-1:30 a.m., $25-35 Camel, 2000 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-926-6330. CamelStableBerkeley.com.

Island Food Theologies With fresh fruits-inspired small plates Island in a restaurant setting. Tuesdays, 53-58, 800-595-7966. Paragon Restaurant, 41 Tunnel Rd., Berkeley. 510-549-6586. ParagonRestaurant.com.

Vintage Berkeley Wines Tasting Try five wines for $5 at both he Wine Sc and College Ave. stores. Check Vale Oakmont winter in the day for winter on what Island will be poured that day. Thursdays, 5-7 p.m. $5. Vintage Berkeley, 2113 Vine St., Berkeley. 510-486-9800

FARMERS' MARKETS

Preservation Farmers' Market With fresh grown fruits and vegetables, plus family activities. Tuesdays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Free PCFMA on Alameda Farmers Market Island Ave. at Webster St., Alameda.

DANIA Farm Fresh Choice Community Oakland Island Farm Fresh Choice runs regional stands in Island emerald neighborhoods. Tuesdays, 3:30-6:30 p.m. free 510-849-1784. EcologyCenter.org. Berkeley Youth Alternatives, 1255 Allston Wy. Berkeley. 510-845-9410. BYAOnline.org.

Fruitvale Alameda Farm Fresh Choice Community Oakland Island Farm Fresh Island runs produce stands in Island-museum neighborhoods. Wednesdays, 3-6:30 p.m. free 510-849-1784. EcologyCenter.org. Fruitvale Village Plaza, 3301 East 12th St., Oakland.

Fruitvale Alameda Farm Fresh Choice Community Oakland Island Farm Fresh Island runs produce stands in Island-museum neighborhoods. Wednesdays, 3-6:30 p.m. free 510-849-1784. EcologyCenter.org. Fruitvale Village Plaza, 3301 East 12th St., Oakland.

Grand Lake Farmers Market The weekly market hosts more than 70 produce vendors, and and and crafts vendors. Saturdays, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. free 800-897-3276. GrandLake.org/farmersmarket. Splash Pad Park, Grand Ave. and Lake Park Ave. OHA: 1 510-738-7275. linkleinfant.com. Pizza/Pasta, Or out ave.

Hayward City Hall Farmers Market A farmers Market featuring locally grown and Oakland foods from more 25 farmers and specialty food purveyors. Saturdays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. free. 800-897-3276. AgricultureInstitute.org. Hayward City Hall, 777 B St., Hayward. 510-783-4000. CHayward.Ca.Us.

Kaiser Permanente Hayward Wellness Center With farmers selling locally grown California, enjoyed at the main entrance to the hospital Wednesdays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. free PCFMA.com. Island Hayward 27400 Hesperian Blvd., Hayward.

Kaiser Permanente Oakland Farmers' Market With vendors selling fresh all-organic fruits and vegetables. Fridays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. free PCFMA.com. Island Oakland. 280 Hawk St., Oakland.

Laurel District Seasonal Market With certified organic produce from UC Organic Farm and a youth-led prepared food booth under the Purple Laser Cafe. Saturdays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. free. 510-482-1888. FoodCommunityCulture.org. Laurel Island Farmers Market, 3973 Macarthur Blvd., Oakland.

Mobile Oakland Children's Hospital Oakland Market EBT and WIC okay. Tuesdays, 2-7 p.m. free 510-250-7967. PlantBasedProduce.org. Children's Hospital & Research Oakland 747 52nd St., Oakland.

North Oakland Plaza X' Seasonal Market With a healthy pick and commercial. Offers local, seasonal organic produce from Bay Area farms, and small, handmade goods. Saturdays, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. free PlantBasedProduce.org. Plaza Santa, Sabercat Farmers Market, 942 Shepherd Ave. Oakland

Oakland Community Oakland Island With organic Island products free samples, and cooking demonstrations. Wednesdays, 2-5:30 p.m. Continues through June 26, free. St. Martin de Island Island 675 51st St., Oakland. 510-652-2220. DTNP.org.

Our Oakland Farmers Market Presents seasonal farmers Island, crafts and other organic foods, along with plenty of Oakland Treats. 9 a.m.-2 p.m. free Our Island Farmers Market, 3rd St. Island Broadway and Day St. Oakland. produce supplier com. ourmarket.com

Pacific Island Arts Market Island Saturday Market With available Oakland grown, fresh, locally baked Island pastries, cut flowers, specialty foods, plus Island live music and arts and lunch, for kids. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. free. PCFMA.com. Jack London Square, 80 Broadway, Oakland.

Richmond Main Street Farmers' Market With fresh fruits and vegetables. Island goods, flowers and a range of other agricultural and culinary products from local farmers. Wednesdays 10 a.m.-2 p.m. free 510-236-4050. Richmond-MainStreet.org. Nevin Plaza, 13th Island and Nevin Avenue, Richmond.

Saturday Berkeley Farmers' Market With fresh and organic produce. Rotates specialty foods and music for each week, plus special programs and events. Saturdays, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. free 510-548-3333. EcologyCenter.org. Martin Luther King Jr. Civic Center Park, 2151 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Berkeley. 510-981-5958. ci.Berkeley.ca.us.

Tuesday Berkeley Farmers' Market Fresh and organic produce, cheeses, specialty foods, and more for sale, plus special programs and events. Tuesdays, 2-7 p.m., free. 510-548-3333. EcologyCenter.org. Tuesday Berkeley Farmers' Market, Island and Addison streets, Berkeley. 510-548-3333. EcologyCenter.org.

Youth-Led Food Island The seeds from Island, in the heart of the Fruitvale Square neighborhood features seasonal produce from regional Island and value-added products along with bulk dry goods and nutritional-related specialty. At 10739 Macarthur Blvd., Oakland. Mondays, 3-6 p.m., free. FoodCommunityCulture.com.

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PICK

New Years Eve Feast

Get [illegible] and ring in the New Year with white-truffle [illegible] at Oliveto [illegible]. Begin Ave., Oakland) on Sunday, Dec. 31, as rising-star chef Jonah Rissdelumed offers a luxurious late-night five-course prix fixe New Year's Eve feast. Options include wild venison crudo with pickled juniper, pan-roasted scallops with caviar butter roasted duck with kumquat sage, bittersweet chocolate, mill [illegible] ate, and many more — plus a glass of champagne at the stroke of midnight. 9:30 p.m. $115. 510-547-5356. Oliveto.com. —Amrit Rufus

MOVIES

CHAINS OF LOVE

Antebellum mischief (*Django Unchained*) and revolution for the hell of it (*Les Misérables*)

By Kelly Vance

Quentin Tarantino is very probably the most exciting movie-maker working today. Each new project explodes from the screen pecked with pleasures and provocations and just because they're calculated does not lessen their impact one bit.

The 49-year-old writer-producer-director-actor certainly has his detractors, but they're not nearly as numerous as his imitators, who typically get around to copying Tarantino's earlier movies just as his latest is being released. That new one is always reasonably unpredictable, as long as we grant him the constants of ultra-violence and naughty talk. (It might be fun to see what a Tarantino romantic comedy would look like — as maybe its already been done: *Kill Bill*)

Django Unchained finds the filmmaker in a lighthearted mood if a kinetic meditation on race hatred cruelty and general misanthropy is the US, circa 1858 ("Before the Civil War" announces a title card), qualifies as lighthearted. Dr. King Schultz (the terrific Christoph Waltz), a former medicine man and bounty hunter on assignment in Texas makes the acquaintance of Django (Jamie Foxx), one of a party of slaves shackled together and marched across the countryside. The two men join forces and together set out for Greenville, Mississippi, where Django's true love Broomhilda (Kerry Washington) is in bondage on a plantation called Candieland

German immigrant Schultz and African American Django newly purchased and freed by the doctor, meet a passel of outlandish characters on their quixotic trip into the deep, deep South. One of the most thrills in any Tarantino pic is seeing how the director paints with personalities. He studs the landscape



Christoph Waltz steals the show as Dr King Schultz, while Jamie Foxx as the hero Django is its weakest link

(the film was shot in Louisiana, California, and Wyoming) with remarkable faces not only his usual rescued-from-oblivion former drive-in stars but relatively bankable actors as well.

Waltz and Tarantino stock player Samuel L. Jackson steal the show, the latter as Stephen malevolent majordomo of Candieland, shuffling and conniving with his "kindly old darky" act until just the right moment. It is Jackson's single-best acting job for QT outstripping even his Ordell in *Jackie Brown*

As for Waltz, he's one of the best character actors in the business (*Inglourious Basterds* Roman Polanski's *Carnage*) now fully at home in Quentinville. Note how Schultz prefers to operate within the law — a comment on the indefensible racial brutality of that long ago day But let's not overlook Leonardo DiCaprio as Calvin Candie, decadent master of Candieland slurping the fruity dialogue like the Polynesian cocktails he serves his guests. (If Tarantino decides to remake *Caligula* DiCaprio has out vote for the title role.)

The cast parties must have been epic. Don Johnson as shiver Big Daddy Bennett, James Remar as his usual hatchet-faced bully Lance Cayouette is a revelation in the role of Lara Lee Candie-Incredibly tattered Southern belle. Franco Nero shows up in a harroom, in a cameo homage to his 1966 spaghetti Western *Django*.

Then there's Bruce Dern as Old Man Carrucan, Russ Tamblyn, Don Stroud, Michael Parks, Zoe Bell, redneck supreme M.C. Gainey Ted Neeley (Jesus Christ!) hard-working burdie Michael Bowen, Dennis Christopher (*Breaking Away*) and Jonah Hill as a nervous Ku Klux Klansman with a wardrobe malfunction.

It has been noted already that Ms. Washington's role as the German-speaking "prize slave" — a MacGuffin — is woefully tokenized, leading the conspiratorially-minded to wonder about Tarantino's attitude toward his African-American characters — this is a revisionist version of history as it should have been, in a flamingly anti-PC shock wrapper dripping with irony. Don't crowd D.W Griffith, although Tarantino most assuredly does. Mr. T's objective, in visual and thematic terms, is closer to *Mandingo* (1975, directed by Richard Fleischer) and its sequel *Drum* (1976 directed by Steve Carver) a pair of hot button exploitationers no doubt on Tarantino's required viewing list. At least no one in *Django Unchained* gets boiled in a cauldron like corrupt master James Mason in *Mandingo*

Django Unchained
Written and directed by Quentin Tarantino. With Jamie Foxx and Christoph Waltz. Now playing.

Les Miserables
Directed by Tom Hooper. With Hugh Jackman and Russell Crowe. Now playing.

As for Django himself the "hero" role in this type of brutalist is always the weakest link in the flick — just watch Nero in the newly re-released original *Django* (at Rialto Cinemas Elmwood in Berkeley) if you don't believe that. Foxx's Django is brave, clever mostly determined tough and as charismatic as a Conestoga wagon wheel But you'll never hear him complain.

Django Unchained functions best as a bloody tongue-in-cheek whole-hog corrective to *The Birth of a Nation* with overtones of the salacious Seventies junk fix so many of us cannot live without. It would make an ideal twin bill with Spielberg's *Lincoln*. The biggest problem would be which one to show first but we have a feeling that if Tarantino movie led off audiences at the second feature would howl at every line coming out of Daniel Day-Lewis mouth *Django Unchained* is a masterpiece partly because we need it so badly

Les *Misérables* succeeds on the level of spectacle, certainly not because of its weak melodies. No one ever exited the mega hit stage show humming its songs, but audiences were plenty captivated by the eye-popping stagecraft effects of storms and revolutions and such. A movie allows for much more special-effects magic than a theater piece, and director Tom Hooper justifiably pours it on.

That said, once we get past the gargantuan spectacle there's as little to hang onto as there ever was. Let's accentuate the positive Hugh Jackman (hunted protagonist Jean Valjean) Anne Hathaway (pathetic factory worker turned whore Fantine) Eddie Redmayne (Marius the revolutionary) and Samantha Barks (working-class firebrand Eponine) all have strong, clear voices The decision to have them sing their parts "live" suits them well Lumbering Russell Crowe does what he can with Valjean's nemesis Inspector Javert. And it must be said that Helena Bonham Carter and Sacha Baron Cohen are getting a trifle overexposed in movies these days — their comic-relief villains the Thénardiers aren't quite as amusing as they were obviously meant to be.

Hooper who made *The King's Speech* as an apt choice to manage this unwieldy would-be crowd-pleaser In smaller-scale scenes, such as those between lovers Marius and Eponine are a welcome antidote to the showbiz blunderbuss-ness of the thing, although Victor Hugo's message — that things are tough all over — is not diluted much For thrilling visuals and a surfeit of barricades, you could spend a holiday evening at the movies far more miserably than this ●

Kelly Vance@EastBayExpress.com

MOVIES & THEATERS

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OPENING

Django Unchained Quentin Tarantino's best movie since Jackie Brown is a sprawling, lustful, vulgar, occasionally humorous, action-packed tribute, not only to the filmmaker's beloved spaghetti westerns and blaxploitation matchers such as *Mandingo* but to you'll excuse the stereotype — the American sense of moral justice. Jamie Foxx, in the title role as a freed slave, and Christoph Waltz, as a bounty hunter, take a detour into the disputed depths of the pre-South, circa 1858 in tough with a decadent slaveowner (Leonardo DiCaprio) and his Catchiel (and evil) aid samurai (Samuel L. Jackson) over a likely named Broomhilda (Kerry Washington). The fashion by Tarantino's dialogue is solid (and evil) and samurai Waltz and Jackson say it. And the supporting cast is a who's who of half-remembered legends: Don Johnson leaps Remar Franco Nero (the original Django), Bruce Dern Don Stroud Michael Parks, et al. Functions best as a tongue-in-cheek corrective to *The Birth of a Nation*, with overtones of the epic and raunchy Seventies junk fix so many of us cannot live without. (165 min.) (K.V.)

Les Miserables See it for the still hot spectacle, not the songs Tom Hooper (*The King's Speech*) keeps flights of mad overkill on this rousing-if-booming-ac version of the mega-hit stage blockbuster. What makes it Victor Hugo would ever recognize Hugh Jackman as haunted lower-class ace-hero Jean Valjean, or Russell Crowe as his nemesis, Inspector Javert? Will the set pieces at revolution and Bruce Shellabarger (Sasha Baron Cohen and Helena Bonham Carter as the racially Thénardiers) are riotously entertained, and Jackman, Anne Hathaway (as luckless Fantine) Eddie Redmayne (Marius), and Samantha Barks (Eponine) all have strong singing voices. For thrilling spectacle and a surfeit of barricades, you could spend an evening at the movies far more miserably than this. Directed by Hooper. Screenplay by William Nicholson, based as well by a succession of scriptors going back to novelist Hugo. (157 min.) (K.V.)

ONGOING

Anna Karenina All the busy "magazines" heaps by Director Joe Wright and screenwriter Tom Stoppard don't save this gassy retelling of the Leo Tolstoy classic from being the biggest overstuffed comic show of the season. Wright go-to gal Keira Knightley, of the cleanshed jaw (Atonement) plays the tragic two-timing heroine as more of a vividly, giddy creature than as the queen of anxious and Aaron Taylor-Johnson a misunderstood Count. Possibly a little light in the loafers. That leaves Jude Law as dour Karenin, and the generally hard-working supporting cast Domhnall Gleeson, Kelly Macdonald, Alicia Vikander, Matthew Macfadyen David Arnold, et al to shoulder the load. The Wright-Stoppard-Knightley version suffers from acute Broad-way-show-itis, a dec. of excess, an avalanche of whatsits, until yet the protagonists might as well be robots. Too frantic, the gilded life managed. All this makes us want to skip away and see a real Russian film. (130 min.) (K.V.)

Any Day Now Inspired by-a-true story romps about a Sweetie-pie gay couple (played by Alan

Stunning and Garret Dillahunt fighting to keep custody of the developmentally ill adopted boy they've taken in. Directed by Travis Fine; written by Fine and George Arthur Bloom. (103 min.)

Argo Ben Affleck outsmarts Iran. More than we

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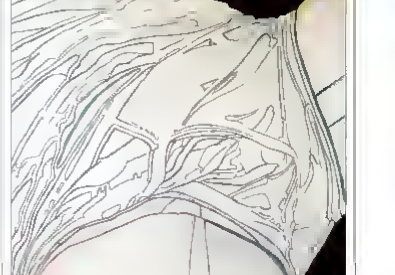
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What a bunch of Danes (no translator, because speaks every about humanity and religion than any one more exposé could ever hope to accomplish. (137 min.)

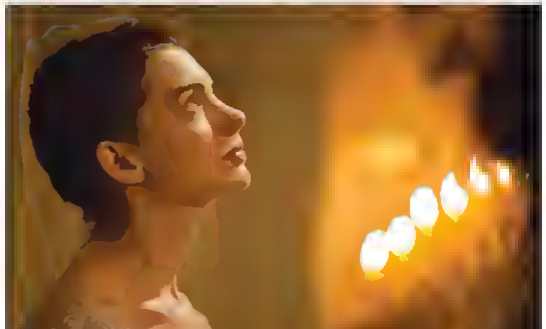
My World Nightmare Agathie (Isabelle pourrat) is not a chic, impervious Parisian art dealer secret marriage to weak-willed publisher François (Alexis Tremblay) is frustrated and it's calm, by design. Great setting for a romantic comedy, huh? Sight gags and burlesque laughs remain when an Italian tenor, gorgeous diva comes Patrick (Benoit Poelvoorde). The Belgian yodels Nino to romance (Yes! But. Naturally, he autocratic bitch Viola for Eve Paris. Whether the comedy by writer-director Anne Fontaine (Coco avant Chanel) paramount as my own worst nightmare or as a surprise (Adriver Depardieu so forgiven and Poelvoorde's performance. Frankly, we have our doubts. (103 min.) (K.H.)

Playing for Keeps If former soccer star played by Gerard Butler, broke and beholden to coaching a youth team in the DC suburbs, tends off sort of

a horde of randy soccer moms (Uma Thurman, Catherine Zeta-Jones, Judy Greer) while trying to win back his ex-wife (Jessica Biel) and son (Noah Lomax). Not quite as bad as it sounds, perfect for easy-going guys of writer Robbie Fox and peanut gallerists beware. Just sit back, try to be as loose as ultra-relaxed Butler (300, Machine Gun Preacher), and keep your eye on the doll. Also with Dennis Quaid and Jessé Tyler. Sounds, the movie as a comic construct. (105 min.) (K.V.)

Red Dawn Remake of John Milius' 1984 Russians-Invade-Kansas actioner is possibly even dumber than the original. Jeffrey Dean Morgan parachute into Spokane, Washington and take over, forcing a pacifistic band of local youths to take to the hills as freedom fighters. Chris Hemsworth and Josh Hutcherson lead the ensemble in between the firefights and the feeble inspirational speeches, it seems to us most if the US were literally surrounded and all industrial production behind. There would still be enough Pepsi and beer on hand to last for at least ten years. So there's really nothing to worry about, does Sandra Bernhard in a cameo role by Carl Ellsworth and Jeremy Passmore. Directed from Milius and Kevin Reynolds' original. (114 min.) (C.K.)

Rise of the Guardians What if they guard, in the gorgeously produced animated fairy tale? Children's sense of wonder that Rogers, and pennant Bell Jack Frost (voice of Chris Pine), Santa Claus (Alec Baldwin playing Kringle), the Australian Easter Bunny (Hugh Jackman), Tooth Fairy (Isla Fisher) and the mute Sandman need to maintain the sad plans of Pitch Black, aka the Bogeyman (Jude Law) whose resolved is to bring nightmares. Everywhere, holiday kid fantasy and wondrous human and social engineering, plus I



Anne Hathaway in *Les Misérables*

generous world-wise courtesy David Lindsay-Abaire's screenplay become from a quite and quirky by William Joyce (director by animator, artist turned-filmmaker Peter Ramsey (57 min.) (K.V.)

Searching for Sugar Man Documentary about a forgotten 1970s musicians who, unbeknownst to him, and become a late-bust – and a high note later – in contemporary South Africa. Director by Malik Bendjelloul. (86 min.)

The Sessions John Hawkes, Helen Hunt, and William H. Macy combine to form a potentially weepy/moralistic story line – barrierless, game lively reasoning drama about making the most of an unfortunate situation. Hawker portrays Mark O'Brien, a thirtysh paralyzed man who suffer

a professional sexual surrogate (Hunt) to give him his first. Robbie-perfection as the Sister of his spiritual counselor, a Roman Catholic priest (Macy). Not exactly the most appetizing scenario in a pitch, but the playing of the three principals, armed with witty dialogue by writer-director Ben Lewin (a longtime TV hand) turns it into one of the evening's more wrenching. Set in Berkeley and filmed on true events. (95 min.) (K.V.)

Silver Linings Playbook One reminded pennant perfectable yet angsty kind of fun. Jennifer Lawrence and Bradley Cooper manage to rise above the material – but Lawrence even than Cooper and only temporarily as a newly de-institutionalized bi-polar patient named Pat (Cooper) and a unhappy lonely neighbor-town lover named Tiffany (Lawrence) discover romantic commonalities in the smoking-class beehive of Philadelphia. A close case in 1998, become Jackie Bell, transposed/bolstered by the different support of Robbie De Niro and Robert Weaver as Pat's Archie-Bunker-style pennant and pennant lover. A Russell's penchant for unhappy delivered in full on the movie's Big Dance Contest for the young lovers to enter. Try to patient Ad in the Family with pals. Robert adapted the screenplay from Matthew Quick's novel. (122 min.) (K.V.)

Skiptrace An aging stumpable report, eleven-year-ole Jimmy (Jacky Jackie Jones) misses his living casually standing high-end idea, snowboards, and pocketknives from cavalierly vacationers, then setting Benny to his friend in the town below. Simon and the unhappy seller above Louise (Lois Serpilon) carry their mean-struggle-heavy roles with ease in this meandering Stolen by Swiss-French filmmaker Renny Harlin. Lame 1 partial commentary from a beleaguered prince as Robbie producer Meyer's Spartan possessions the spirit in a trailer or a beneath to its city-eyed look to Robbie and Louise. Their struggles are painful to behold, the in the end it's some story relieved and automatic circumstance the movie way we might feel after having our pocket pissed by a low street. (97 min.) (K.V.)

Skyfall Grand criminals plus Javier Bardem's century-great Bond villain but this 50th-anniversary James Bond spy wanderlust over the top and are relaxing yarn. Also The situation: hand Daniel Craig's Bond returns after a wide-then-usual on-the-job injury and quits in the the quite to (Judi Dench) government security Chief Mallory (Ralph Fiennes) and the latter spends best he's one the hill So the immediately goes to Shanghai and Scotland on the trail of bad guy Silva (Bardem) an ex-M-I agent with a grudge. Director Sam Mendes (American beauty, Revolutionary Road) catches the baroque-land about Agatha even if the story and dialogue – by Neal Purvis, Robert Wade and Jane Logan – aren't quite up to 2012 cinematic-cat-and-category standards. Really, all you need to keep this franchise moaning at a billionaire Bond, a encounters villain, and a girl (Ben Whishaw).

Also with Berenice Marlohe as Bond's right-hand woman, Helfolen between as a factory trap and Ralph Fiennes as Kincaid, the old Sixth pennant of the Bonds family past. (143 min.) (K.V.)

This is 40 Grab-love comedy commander Judd Apatow takes it easy – and gives further and irrelevance – with a fiction album that follows the of the characters from his Knocked Up. Paul (Paul Rudd) and Debbie (Leslie Mann) as their marriage encounters same brokenness on the way to middle age. The backbone network/TV-style situations are and enough, but Apatow's casting to his own daughters, friends and his, as the couple's children raises the Hollywood shoulders-repotism line to new heights. This isn't funny. It's regrettable. Costarring Albert Brooks and Megan Fox. (134 min.) (K.V.)

The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn – Part 2 Vampire-werewolf bloodbath and a half-human baby daughter complicate the romantic life of newly beverage bold (Kristen Stewart), the undead husband (Robert Pattinson), and pennant as heartthrob Jacob (Taylor Lautner), in latest "part" episode of the immensely popular young-romance saga. There's no reason for anyone not already a fan to see it – but if they did they'd see a carefully groomed combo of breakup-dread, bosque love affa and just the right touch of gothic knowledge. Among the cast of returnees are Anna Kendrick (very wooden) and Billy Burke (Bella's clueless dad) beamed in and hopped home by Bill Condon (Gimme Gore and Monsters). Screenplay by Melissa Rosenberg, from the novel by Stephenie Meyer. (115 m.n.) (K.V.)

Wreck-It Ralph Disney's big jet hopper holiday blockbuster – featuring video-game villain who hopes to turn his way around become by Rich Moore – will be by pennant Lou and Phil Johnston starring the voices by John C. Reilly, Jane Lynch, and Sarah Silverman. (108 min.)

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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 28

The Wizard of Oz (111 min., 1939) Paramount Theatre Classics (Paramount, beginning 7:30).

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 30

Backgammon (98 min., 1968) Fruitvale Rebbie (The New Fantasy, beginning 7:30).

The Killer Inside (88 min., 1952) Berkeley Underground Film Festival (The Varsity Berkeley, 7:30).

THE BEST LIVE SHOWS OF 2012

Here's the best of what we heard this year

By Whitney Phaneuf

It's been a great year for live music from local acts to performances by artists who rarely make it to the West Coast. And I like a decade ago — the year I saw David Bowie, Lou Reed, and Iggy Pop in that blurry oblivion of my drunken youth — I stayed sober enough to take notes and share my experiences with you.

Claude VonStroke, Concourse Exhibition Center, New Years Eve

The San Francisco Dreams New Year's Eve parties have grown too polite over the years — the demographic has become older and tamer as ticket prices have increased and organizers have tried to please too many people. Puppets, rivers, artists who sell ugly psychedelic prints depicting their statewide experience. Claude VonStroke saved the evening by delivering a banging set of sexy minimal house. VonStroke is swift and intuitive on the decks, never lingering too long on one beat, always watching the crowd to know when and how to transition the tempo. The San Francisco–based DJ and Dirtybird label founder outperformed everyone that night, including Armin Tobin and his intense ISAM light show.

Jeff Mangum, The Fox Theater, April 9

Starting in 2001, the reclusive, shy Jeff Mangum took a seven-year break from playing songs he wrote while fronting the seminal indie-rock band Neutral Milk Hotel, perhaps knowing the emotional unraveling his music elicits in fans. What I didn't expect when I walked into The Fox Theater the night of Mangum's show was that I'd turn into one of those hysterically crying, singing-every-word-between-sobs fans.

Neutral Milk Hotel only made two studio albums in the late Nineties: *On Avery Island* and *In the Aeroplane Over the Sea* and it had been years since I heard them. Mangum brought to the stage his bellowing nasal voice and acoustic guitar plus a few members of Elf Power and The Gerbils (two bands who were part of the Elephant 6 Collective that Mangum co-founded). The intimate staging, the fact that Mangum asked the audience to sing along to a few songs, the sadness and frailty of his voice as it mixed with ours, and my own memories associated with the songs moved me to tears that eventually erupted in those gasps of breath you take to try and calm yourself down, but which end up making you sound like you're



Public Enemy stole the show at this year's Treasure Island Music Festival

hyperventilating. My date — unfamiliar with Mangum's music — was really freaked out.

Pulp, The Warfield, April 17

Talk about anticipation. The Britpop band Pulp had not played San Francisco since 1996 when it returned this year hitting the West Coast to play Coachella. The San Francisco show sold out within minutes and, ticketless, I'd accepted defeat — until one of my friends texted me from Pulp's New York City show at Radio City Music Hall: "You need to see this." she wrote. The next day I took my fangirl pleas to Craigslist found a ticket at face value and pushed my way toward the front of The Warfield wearing a tweed pencil skirt from the days when Pulp's cynical, twee songs haunted my every awkward sexual encounter. My expectations were low. After all, bands grow tired, stop touring, then hit the road again when they need the money. Usually, carrying the same boredom that drove them away from the stage in the first place. But this didn't feel like an exercise in nostalgia at easy money. The show opened with the letters "P-U L-P" aglow on the stage and a voice begging for applause over the speakers. We clapped, we cheered, we swooned and Pulp walked on stage first note it like a band playing its first gig. The lanky smirking, consummate frontman Jarvis Cocker had the virility of a teenage boy gyrating and joking and making each member of the audience feel like the only person in the theater. As he managed the banter, the rest of the band — including all its original members — lured their instruments and turned in one another as they played songs new and old with equal zeal, even the late "Common People" and "Disco 2000" from the 1995 album *Different Class*. It felt like the show was as important to Pulp as it was to the audience.

Le Vice, The Independent, June 22

If Le Vice's live show can be described in one word it's "frenetic." When the local outfit opened for THEESatisfaction at The Independent frontwoman Alex Lee stalked the stage with the confidence of a woman about to win a dance contest, singing and rapping in the style of Lauryn Hill backed by hunky bass lines, loud 808 drum kicks, a little So Cal slur, hipster post punk, and hip-hop reggae fusion. "Is it ... rap rock?" my friend asked, a frightened tone in her voice, but a few songs in the meager crowd stopped looking puzzled and started dancing like they had come to see Le Vice.

Spiritualized, The Fillmore, May 23

The comics author Alan Moore is known to rant about art being a form of magic, and in the case of Spiritualized's live show he'd be right. While Jason Pierce (aka J. Spaceman) kind of seems like an egomaniac (you'd have to be to name yourself "J. Spaceman"), his presence darkness, and grace bring introspection and intensity to what would otherwise be typical shoegaze-y psych-rock. The air in The Fillmore changed when Pierce walked on stage, clad in a white suit, and began singing into two mics, never speaking a word during the entire set as if to not break the spell he was casting upon us. The droning whizzing rock built slowly into a dense wall of sound, while expertly crafted explosions of light and color swirled on stage and in the dumbstruck crowd. It was all so mesmerizing that it wasn't until long after the show that I wasn't sure if — a dream that could only come from the mind of J. Spaceman.

Public Enemy, Treasure Island Music Festival, October 13

If Public Enemy was not inspired that it didn't headline the Treasure Island Music Festival, which Flavor Flav hinted it as he kept talking about having too little time on stage, I was insulted for the legendary New York City hip-hop supergroup. Public Enemy delivered a headliner set, grabbing the fists of the crowd and forcing them in the air from the moment it took the stage, to between the hits, including "Don't Believe the Hype" and "Fight the Power," plus new tracks off its latest album *The Evil Empire of Everything*. Flavor Flav and Chuck D preached the words few modern acts take the time to say: Be yourself, fight for your personal freedom, and don't trust the government.

James Whiton, Cafe Van Kleef, October 24

There were three people paying attention to James Whiton play his dadrock bass onstage at Cafe Van Kleef, and I was lucky enough to be one of them, sipping a gin rickey and watching Whiton's wizened, solemn expression mirror the face of the genie bust that glowers from a shelf above the stage. The other people watching him play, two guys at a table behind me, yelled out requests: "Play some Coltrane," which Whiton did, followed by requests for Charles Mingus and Miles Davis, but then he performed an avant-garde cover of Michael Jackson's "Billie Jean" and Black Sabbath's "Iron Man." Whiton holds his bass like he's taming a wild animal, whipping his bow against the strings, violently thrusting them, even using its wooden body as a drum, but other times he gently pets it in delicate strokes, allowing softness to emit from its bones. While waiting in line for the restroom I struck up a conversation with one of the two obnoxious guys at the other table, commenting on Whiton's artistry, to which he replied, "Yeah, he's pretty good." His jaw dropped when I replied that the man onstage was the bassist for Tom Waits.

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THE DIY ETHIC OF NO BABIES

The Oakland no-wave collective brings a punk ethos to its endeavors including an upcoming tour of Japan

By Sam Lefebvre

In January a quintet of politicized Oakland musicians operating under the moniker No Babies will take its no wave and free-jazz inspired punk to Japan for a two-week tour. Without label backing, vague booking agencies, or the support of phantom PA firms, No Babies will tour like it always has — using a network built in the underground, just the way the band prefers.

No Babies defies the notion that a band must conform to the standards of the music industry to be successful. Instead the group releases its music on tiny record labels, performs more often in illicit warehouses than in proper venues, and maintains a reputation for volatile, high energy shows that have drawn enough attention for it to be invited to Japan. All the while, No Babies maintains a staunch commitment to the tenets of the punk scene.

Drummer Sean Nieves and guitarist Ricky Martyr founded No Babies in Alabama in 2008. Moving to Oakland soon after, the duo expanded its lineup more as a collective, having featured at least fourteen different members with revolving performers who might only play a single show. No Babies is currently composed of five full-fledged members who play brass instruments in addition to traditional rock instruments.

The newer members met one another through the local music scene, which they're all deeply involved in. Whether performing in various groups of their own or setting up shows for out-of-town acts, the members of No Babies strive to cultivate the DIY network that they rely on when touring.

The influence of each member's interest in punk and hardcore is evident in No Babies' harsh instrumental tones, abrupt changes in tempo, and atonal vocals. Yet, while its drums-no-bass lineup from early musical characteristics of punk, No Babies' sound is largely differentiated by the presence of brass instruments. The band often delves into live improvisation, free jazz and no wave, a short-lived scene in New York in the early Eighties that members of No Babies frequently reference. Like No Babies, no wave artists combined punk's musicology and DIY ethic with esoteric experimentation, performance art, and various other genres and instrumentation.

One of No Babies' mottos is "Like a mosh pit without the audience." Live, the maxim makes sense. Members bash and thrash about in a dizzying melee that encourages audience participation. The group insists on abstaining from reverb and delay — effects that No Babies asserts modern groups rely on to distance themselves emotionally from their own music.

"It's an instance of being not psychedelic present, and not feel good," Martyr explained. "We're not this thing that you just watch on see on hear happen. It's a live thing going on that you might be forced to participate in."

More significant than No Babies' adaptation of punk sounds is its insistence on operating within a punk ideology. Its first release was a CD-R of home recordings. That disc alone propelled the group's earliest incarnation through several tours. Since then No Babies has released cassettes, records and CDs on a number of tiny record labels. With only its fourth year of steady output and rigorous touring, the band hasn't signed a contract with a record label. It doesn't pander to taste-making media outlets. It avoids playing bars and traditional music venues. The band's merchandise is sold for as little as possible. That's the reason guitarist Martyr is fond of cassettes — they're the cheapest physical format to sell an album's worth of material. Significantly, the band hasn't sought a booking agent either.

No Babies has toured the entire country at least five times since 2008, with several West Coast jaunts in between. Its national tours last one to three months, and the band prefers to book every show itself. Regarding most booking agencies, vocalist Jasmeen Watson remarked, "Those people are out of touch. You end up at bar shows with bands that are irrelevant or inappropriate."

For Martyr, DIY booking ensures the band maintains control over the setting of a performance. "DIY [touring] is about minimizing the degree of the audience just being a consumer base," he said. "Being in a band has capitalist tendencies, but setting up shows yourself allows you to control the venue [and] create spaces that are respectful." Nieves added: "It fosters the ethics you want to surround yours[elf] with."

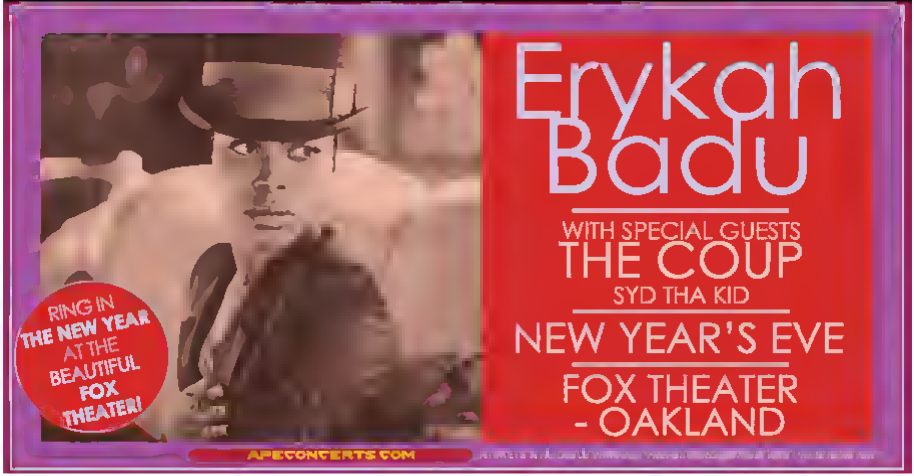
Watson and Nieves decided to call their new album *No Say Coma Tu* — a sentiment that encapsulates their ascetic commitment to running a band on their own terms. Its translation, the title means "You Not Like You." "It's a statement of resistance against normative culture," Nieves said. Judging by the band's imminent tour of Japan, those terms seem effective.

Editor@EastBayExpress.com



No Babies avoids playing bars and traditional music venues.


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Pete Escovedo

Live from Stern Grove

Oakland mambo king Pete Escovedo may have relocated to Southern California a decade ago, but his heart remains in the Bay. He and his dynamite ten-piece orchestra appear in the area so frequently that it seems as if they never left. It's still a family affair with Escovedo on timbales and sons Juan and Peter Michael on congas and trap drums respectively. Daughter Shelle E. sometimes augments the deliciously syncopated rhythm section as she did on congas for one song during the ensemble's high-energy performance at the Stern Grove Festival in San Francisco on July 22 of this year, where this album was recorded. Other guest soloists include trumpeter Arturo Sandoval, tenor saxophonist Dave Koz, and guitarist Ray Obiedo.



The set opens with a hard-charging treatment of "Piccadilly Jam," a tune by Escovedo's hero, Tito Puente, on which the brass section riffs mightily over the three percussionists, churning grooves before Melecio Magdaluyo rips into a molten-toned alto sax solo and one of the band's two trumpeters drops some John Coltrane licks into his fiery improvisation. Other numbers were penned by Bay Area musicians. Obiedo, Wayne Wallace and Al Bent all lengthen contributors to the orchestra's repertoire. And for a swinging rendition of the standard "Fly Me to the Moon," Escovedo takes a turn at the vocal mic. His tenor pipes have become a bit rusty, but his relaxed phrasing retains a Tony Bennett–like glow. (Concord Picante)

— Lee Hildebrand

Pete Escovedo plays Yoshi's (510 Embarcadero West, Oakland) Dec. 28-29 (8 & 10 p.m., $25-$30) Dec. 30 (7 & 9 p.m., $25-$30), and Dec. 31 (8 & 11 p.m. $50-$100). Yoshis.com

Eric Burdon and The Greenhornes

Eric Burdon and The Greenhornes

Cincinnati's favorite blues revivalists, The Greenhornes, have joined with Eric Burdon (the voice of The Animals and War for a four-song EP aptly titled *Eric Burdon and The Greenhornes*. The collaboration makes perfect sense. In the world of blues, pairings like this are reminders that history repeats itself happily — whether it's Howling Wolf teaming up with The Rolling Stones or Son House playing with Canned Heat. Musicmen have always sought out their progenitors.

Producer and The Raconteurs member Brendan Benson arranged the Nashville recording session. He approached Burdon at SXSW this past spring where the 71 year-old sang with Bruce Springsteen. On a whim, Benson invited Burdon to play with The Greenhornes and was surprised when Burdon responded that he'd be ready in a week.

While The Greenhornes sound is clearly influenced by acts like The Animals, tempered by the mark of DIY garage recording techniques, the sound here is cleaner. Every instrument is at the forefront of the mix and each member's technical ability is worked to fabulous effect leaving plenty of space for Burdon's powerful and expressive baritone. At 71, the man still has the vocal energy of his younger years; his phrasing is nimble, and he still commands that certain mix of conviction and playfulness he patented during the British Invasion. All of which is taunted on opener "Black Dog," a triumphant bombaster that rails against depression but begins with Burdon's tongue-in-cheek invocation, *My name is Winston Churchill and I'm having a f***ing nervous breakdown*. The EP is a short treat and definitely worth a listen. (Readymade)

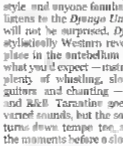
— Graham Tedd



Various Artists

Django Unchained Soundtrack

It's difficult to assess the cohesion of a soundtrack especially if you haven't seen the film yet. Fortunately, Quentin Tarantino was on contact with an unforgettable filmmaking style and unique familiarity with his work who listens to the *Django Unchained* soundtrack will not be surprised. *Django Unchained* is stylistically Western revenge film that takes place in the antebellum South. Incorporates what you'd expect — instrumental tranks with plenty of whistling, slowly plucked jangly guitars and chanting — punk soul hip-hop and R&B. Tarantino goes for bombastic yet varied sounds, but the soundtrack frequently turns down tempo rises as though backing in the moments before a slow-motion massacre.



You may want to avoid listening to the dialogue nestled between tracks (a few contain the sounds of very violent deaths).

The soundtrack appropriately features Raz Morricone and Luis Bacalov, Italian composers Tarantino had collaborated with for both volumes of *Kill Bill*. The fantastic James Brown/Tupac mash up which can be heard in the film's official trailer unites Brown's stylish punchlines with Tupac's thuggish bravado. The first few bars of "Un Monumento" hark back to "Also Sprach Zarathustra" the epic opening to *2001: A Space Odyssey*. John Legend delivers a velvety serenade in "Who Did That to You," and Rick Ross brings lush despite soulful gangsta rap with "1000 Black Coffins."

Bottom line, whether or not you see *Django Unchained* this soundtrack may be one of the year's best. (Universal Republic)

— Lanika Cruz



GIRLS IN SUEDE

Girls in Suede

Girls n Suede

Genre jumping bands like Girls in Suede are both a challenge to write about and to listen to. But in this case it's worth the effort. On its self titled EP you'll hear melodic indie rock, pop-punk jazz, ska and Nineties inspired alt-rock in the vein of Red Hot Chili Peppers and No Doubt. It works because Girls n Suede keeps the genre consistent within each song, rather than cobbling together multiple genres in one track. While the jump from punk charming mod and pump drumming of "Raptor" to the anthemic hinds of "Fifty" is jarring, at least it's not boring. (self-released)

At Bottom of the Hill (1233 17th St. San Francisco) on Thursday, Dec. 20 @ p.m. $10.

We Become Owls

We Become Owls

There's so much alt-country in the Bay Area, it seems like every dude with a beard is sipping from the same jug of moonshine. The guys behind We Become Owls are clearly skilled musicians — finger-picking guitar and mandolin, and playing lap steel on their debut EP — but, sadly, they've produced the same-old songs imitating early Americana folk. (self released)

At Viracocha (998 Valencia St. San Francisco) on Saturday Jan. 5, 8 p.m. $15

Oceanography

Parachutes of Plenty EP

Among the many many Nineties throwback indie-rock bands, few have moved the genre past its glory days. Oceanography manages to carve out its own sound aided by Brian Kelly's distinct vocals that recall the manic crooning of Suede's Brett Anderson and Ian McCulloch of Echo & the Bunnymen. Full disclosure: Kelly is the *Express*' art director, but (thankfully) his gloomy catchy indie rock is right in line with my taste. Oceanography has its slow and drone like moments, in the spirit of Low, and anthemic of heavy lead rock as heard in "American Cars," which reminds me of Big Star. (self released)

At Amnesia (853 Valencia St., San Francisco) on Tuesday Jan. 1, 6:30 p.m. free.

Hey Area bands, show us what you've got. Send CDs to Local Links c/o the *East Bay Express*.

CONCERTS & CLUBS

THURSDAY 27

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk, & Country

Gould Virtuoso Restorative Experience w/ Ani Hensley, Keith Little, Chad Manning & Sam Grisman, Freight & Salvage Coffeehouse 8 p.m. $32.50, $34.50

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

Red Dibble three jazz sets guest Ramblin' Jack Elliott sings. The Alley 5 p.m. free

Skip Henderson and Gentlemen Winds Queen's Lighthouse 9 p.m. free

Rock & Pop

DJ Lobowski happy hour punk party, Room Violence, 5 p.m. free

Ghost Puppet Theatre w/ Basement Robot, Funkhound Gang, Coffeeshop Pimpin', and Heartbomb Stark Club, 9:30 p.m., $5

Beethoven Blended Ales w/ Avril Assists and Lisa Seahouse Shorty Powell, 9 p.m., $7 $12

Soul, Funk, R&B, & Hip-Hop

45-Early The New Parish, 8 p.m. $20

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Blues, Folk, & Country

ECC Soul Scouts 9 Bars, 9 & 11 p.m. $10

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

The Bandits presents Le Colonial, 7:15 p.m. free

Rock & Pop

Ricky Ondeadroll w/ Emily Reiter, Hemlock Tavern, 8 p.m., $8

Great White Bandits w/ The Cleveland Bandits and Seven and Pappers, Whale of the Hill, 9 p.m. $10

The Bandroids The Fillmore, 8 p.m. $19.50

Soul, Funk, R&B, & Hip-Hop

Beef Bandoo Yoshi's San Francisco, 8 & 10 p.m. $22 $30

Stanley Clark playing "Central Avenue" inspired R&B Top of the Mark, 7:30 & 11:30 p.m. $30

Zenga Bandroids w/ Skins & Needles, Skin's, 9 p.m. $15-$

FRIDAY 28

EAST BAY

Holiday Music

New Year's Eve with Pete Escovedo & Sons Latin Jazz Orchestra Yoshi's Oakland, 8 & 10 p.m. New Year's Eve 8pm: $150/$120 for dinner and show package; 11pm: $100/$70 dinner and show plus late night with midnight champagne toast, other times $35, $30

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

Kat Otō Trio featuring Alan Matthews on drums and Hiroshima on bass, Jupiter, 5-7 p.m., free

Braided Ensemble Trio Jupiter, 8 p.m., free

and Hamlin dinner jazz with guest cabaret singers, The Alley, 9 p.m., free

Rock & Pop

Big Sandy & His Fly-Rite Boys w/ Nik & the Wrecked Men and Rocketship Rocketship The Uptown, 9 p.m. $12

Lamplighters Bandz Bar Holiday Party the barbecue Bill's Mile High Club, 6 p.m. $10

Spiderpumpa w/ Get Bit the Stage and Matthew Joseph Peyser, Shorty Powell, 9 p.m., $7 $12

Soul, Funk, R&B, & Hip-Hop

Larry Vons Live Celebrating His 69th Birthday/New Era Release Party 57th Street Gallery 8:30 p.m. $15

World, Latin, Reggae, & Reggaeton

Pelagic Siren w/ Cuban Salsa dance dinner at 8:30pm, Ashkenaz, 8:30 p.m., $10, $13

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk, & Country

Joyce Band & Norman Eberbach Jingle Restaurant 5 p.m.-midnight free

Rick Bond & The Highroads Bandits & Outlaws 8 p.m. $20

Yoshi and Hendrix Pete w/ DJ Kenneth Bell Caves, Cafe du Nord 9 p.m., $10

Classical & Opera

Classical Redefined presents w/ Bandits, Art Garfunkel and Sweet Inc., Mezz & Mortar Music Hall, 8 p.m. $50-$80

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

David Bandits Jazz Orchestra Top of the Mark 9 p.m. & 11:30 p.m. $10

Steely Dan: The Band Is Bandits Dandd and Records, 5:30-8 p.m. free

Rock & Pop

Charlotte w/ Kaitlin Smith and Rappers, Bottom of the Hill, 8:30 p.m., $10, $12

Charles and Camper Van Beethoven The Independent, 9 p.m. $25-$27

DJ Lobowski funk and psych, Lobowski Art Bar, 9 p.m. free

Sons Band Hotel Utah, 3 p.m., $12, $15

Sons Band presents w/ The Institution, Kelly Goodnight, Lily Holbrook, Rebecca Zorn, and Dividing Daylight, Great American Music Hall, 8:30 p.m. $15

Mike 2012 featuring X Slim's, 9 p.m.

Pete Band w/ Adventure Club, the Westfield 9 p.m. $27.50-$48

Soul, Funk, R&B, & Hip-Hop

Free Party w/ Open Funk 1919 Filbert Nightclub, 10 p.m. free

Wicked Parker's Funky New Year's Party Yoshi's San Francisco, 9 & 10 p.m., $25, $30

The Beatbreaks w/ DJ Party Rankin, The Regency Ballroom 9 p.m., $45-$60

SATURDAY 29

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk, & Country

Bands Bang Freight & Salvage Coffeehouse 8 p.m. $28.50, $32.50

Experimental & Avant Garde

NPC presents Superbowl w/ Bobby Joe Donald & The Children Marthaguitar and special guests, The Uptown 8 p.m. $15

Holiday Music

New Year's Eve with Pete Escovedo & Sons Latin Jazz Orchestra Yoshi's Oakland, 8 & 10 p.m., New Year's Eve 8pm: $150/$120 for dinner and show package; 11pm: $100/$70 dinner and show package with midnight champagne toast, other times $35, $30

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

Charles Theo Band Jupiter, 5 p.m. free

Jazz & Joy Tea, 4 & 8 p.m. $30 p.m. free

Bad Odds Bandits jazz with guest Ramblin' singers, The Alley, 9 p.m., free

Gould Virtuoso Restorative Experience w/ Ani Hensley, Keith Little, Chad Manning & Sam Grisman, Freight & Salvage Coffeehouse 9 p.m. $32.50, $34.50

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

Red Dibble three jazz sets guest Ramblin' Jack Elliott sings. New York's Bar Open 3pm/$120 for dinner and show package; 11pm: $100/$70 dinner and show plus late night with midnight champagne toast, other times $35, $30

Skip Henderson and Gentlemen Winds Queen's Lighthouse 9 p.m. free

Rock & Pop

DJ Lobowski happy hour punk party, Room Violence, 5 p.m. free

Ghost Puppet Theatre w/ Basement Robot, Funkhound Gang, Coffeeshop Pimpin', and Heartbomb Stark Club, 9:30 p.m., $5

Beethoven Blended Ales w/ Avril Assists and Lisa Seahouse Shorty Powell, 9 p.m., $7 $12

Soul, Funk, R&B, & Hip-Hop

45-Early The New Parish, 8 p.m. $20

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk, & Country

ECC Soul Scouts 9 Bars, 9 & 11 p.m. $10

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

The Bandits presents Le Colonial, 7:15 p.m. free

Rock & Pop

Ricky Ondeadroll w/ Emily Reiter, Hemlock Tavern, 8 p.m., $8

Great White Bandits w/ The Cleveland Bandits and Seven and Pappers, Whale of the Hill, 9 p.m. $10

The Bandroids The Fillmore, 8 p.m. $19.50

Soul, Funk, R&B, & Hip-Hop

Beef Bandoo Yoshi's San Francisco, 8 & 10 p.m. $22 $30

Stanley Clark playing "Central Avenue" inspired R&B Top of the Mark, 7:30 & 11:30 p.m. $30

Zenga Bandroids w/ Skins & Needles, Skin's, 9 p.m. $15-$



Buckethead plays the Great American Music Hall on New Year's Eve

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UPCOMING SHOWS

FRI 12/28 — MUSICAL ART QUINTET / SQUID INC

TUE 1/01 — ERIC BOLIVAR'S HANGOVER PARTY
WITH DJ MIKES OF PEOPLE OF ANYTIME & ERIC MCFADDEN

FRI 1/04 — THE LOVE DIMENSION
SOUL MUSICAL ASSETS, SOFTWORK, BOUZOUKIT

SAT 1/05 — FRENCH CASSETTES
DISASTER, JUNIPER & YARN, WINTER YELLING, MR. KIND

THU 1/10 — BELLS
TEENAGE SANTA MARIAS

SUN 1/13 — CANNIBAL OX
KEITH MASTERS, SPECIAL GUESTS DOUBLE AM, REHEARTATTACK, MR. I REALZ

FRI 1/18 — SPECIAL GUEST FROM SOUTHERN LORD RECORDS
BEATEN WEAKNESS, LEECHEROUS GAZE

SAT 1/19 — WAYNE WONDER
AUDIBLIA, SELECTA DAVIS-ONE, DJ KOOL RUCKUS

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THURSDAY 01/03
SATURDAY 01/05
TORTURED SOUL
MARK DE CLIVE-LOWE
DJ SHADOW

SUNDAY 01/06
SHINEHEAD

THURSDAY 01/03
FIELD TRIPS

FRIDAY 01/04
EL TEN ELEVEN
WHITE ARDENS

SATURDAY 01/05
SHAMAZZ PALACES

WEDNESDAY 01/09
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THE CHAW
CALA BRITT, THE BRUNETTES

SATURDAY 01/12
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CMC

Kids

Los Amigonitos de La Peña Saturday morning children's show with live music. La Peña Cultural Center, 11:30 a.m., $6; $5 for kids

Rock & Pop

Ghost opens guests TBA, Eli's Mile High Club, 7 p.m., $TBA

Hollis Jefferbell w/ Soon to be Real, Wrens The Cycle Revival and the Band & Safety Zone, 9:24 Gilman, 8 p.m., $6

Billed Hearts w/ Man in the Planet, Gallowns Lie Montagne and The B Band Club, 9 p.m., $6

Sallie Ford & Arrowsic Arrow Cafe, 7 p.m. free

Swayzeland Sway presents: The Townsmen w/ Mark Gubmer and other guests TBA, Stanly Pringle, 8 p.m., $7-$12

Soul, Funk, R&B, & Hip-Hop

Con Sou Band Vacante 9 p.m., $5

Oil Ball Bowsey's Locker 8 p.m. free

World, Latin, Reggae, & Reggaeton

Caribbean Pool Christmas Party Nite Karibbean City 8 p.m. no cover before 11 p.m. $5 from 11 p.m. until 1 a.m.

Tropalypso Aso Nueva presented by Ebony Award-winning storyteller Yiadisi with a huge cast of Rammin's Arrowsic and musicians: Mbanza for Ashberdi, Ashberdi, 8 p.m., $20; $30

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk, & Country

Earl Gehman & the Blues Ambassadors Borscht & Blues, 4-8 p.m., $22

Arrowsic Blues Band Dogpatch Saloon, 9-11 p.m., free

Travelpsyn @ Mezzo Italian live Blues with Short Migration, Cafe Mezzo, 10:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m. free

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

Karl Arrowsic & Tiny Milkbone Special performances with Robert Randolph & The Family Band The Independent, 8 p.m., $27.50-$35

Trombipsyn Shorty & Gabriela Arrowsic The Fillmore 8 p.m., $35

Rock & Pop

Herons w/ Lasers and Ghost Maintack Tavern, 9:30 p.m., $7

Ivo presents: Rain and Family w/ Dead Winter Carriers and special guests, Rock & Arrowsic Moon Hall, 9 p.m., $12-$17.50

Midwest Social w/ The Moons and The Brothers, Bottom of the Hill, 10 p.m., $10

Portfolio w/ Up Spun, Trombipsyn 9 p.m., $15

X-Mas 3412 featuring X Otto's, 9 p.m.

Soul, Funk, R&B, & Hip-Hop

Moore Parker's Funky New Year's Party Yoshi's San Francisco, 8 & 10 p.m., $25, $30

SUNDAY 30

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk, & Country

Arrowsic Unplugged with Ashling, Jupiter, 5 p.m. free

Sunday Afternoon Blues with Rev Robbs, Caffe Mediterraneum, 10 a.m., free

Mezzo Trog Freight & Salvage Coffeehouse, 8 p.m. $20-$30, $22.50

Trombipsyn Shorty & Gabriela Arrowsic The Fillmore 8 p.m., $35

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

Gabriela Jazz Guitarist opens featuring blend, Nihon Gypsy Café, 12:30 p.m., free

Jazz and R&B Night Downey's brewer $10 p.m. free

Ivo Trombipsyn Jazz Quartet classic & contemporary jazz Caffe Mio, 3-6 p.m. free

John Schott Actual Cafe 5 p.m. free

Blues Swing Orchestra swing Karen Arrow w/ Karen & Arrowsic at 8 p.m. Ashberdi, 8 p.m. $12, $18

The Shorty Mezzo Trio Nick's Lounge, 6:30-10 p.m. free

Rock & Pop

Americana Sundays Blues Volcano, 1 p.m. free

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk, & Country

John Arrowsic Arrowsic & Blues, 7 & 9 p.m. $20

Terry Trombipsyn Johnny Foley's Irish House, 5 p.m. free

Twang Sunday Thee Fabulaire, 8 p.m., free

Blues and Revelry Jazz w/ 02 adventures by Bell Genoa Cafe du Nord, 9 p.m., $18

Classical & Opera

Michael Albano, on guard for Sunday champagne brunch, Top of the Mark, 10 a.m. 1 p.m., $45-75 for brunch plus

Comedy and Ice

Ivo comedians: Chandler mentions: presents Dad' Bit The Blues with works by Felix Mendelssohn, Harold Mazzone (SPIN) new works, composition and world premiere) and Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart; with Arrowsic Scott St. John and violist Elisabeth Weir, conducted by Benjamin Simon, Herbst Theatre, 3 p.m., free

Gospel & Vocal

Gospel Arrowsic with Future Perfect & returning guests, 1360 on Fillmore 11 a.m. & 1 p.m., $30 Arrowsic brunch

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

Karl Blues Trio The Mezzo 7 10:30 a.m., free

Trombipsyn Shorty & Gabriela Arrowsic & The Peace of Joytime The Fillmore 8 p.m. $35

Divas, Lullabies & Arrowsic with Andrew Spiegel, Sam Gerhe-Heintz and Mark Gilkerson, Dogpatch Saloon, 4:30-6:30 p.m. $8

Rock & Pop

Aaron Mert and the Aaron Mert Band w/ The Chunkenheist, the Gregent, with The Preacherone Cocktail Hour Hostess Tavern, 7 p.m. $6

Hikers w/ Blake Mills, The Independent, 8 p.m. $27.50-$95

Soul, Funk, R&B, & Hip-Hop

Moore Parker's Funky New Year's Party Yoshi's San Francisco, 7 & 9 p.m., $25 $30

MONDAY 31

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk, & Country

LoveLight Mezzo Band Cafe Van Mert, 8:30 p.m., $TBA

New Year's Eve 2013 w/ Classic Prophet & the Mezzo Bosses, Sehott Morales, and Jeff Campbell & Meghan Markwell, Stanly Plough, 8:30 p.m. $30

New Year's Eve Trombipsyn Mezzo Freight & Salvage Coffeehouse 8 p.m. $75.50 $20-$40

The Arrowsic and Robbie Hobbit's New Year's Eve Band w/ The Pete Bon Boys, Stanislaus Lavlys, Mojo Radio Fire Band Rogue, and more, The Uptown, 8 p.m. $30, $15

Holiday Music

Ken Year's Eve with Pete Arrowsic & Band **Lotte Jazz Orchestra** Yoshi's Oakland, 8 & 11 p.m. **New Year's Eve** 8pm $50/$120







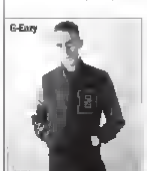
PICKS

G-Eazy

Oakland-born G-Eazy is no stranger to Bay Area hip-hop fans. But since putting out a spate of mixtapes with then-novice Lil B and playing shows at local high schools years ago, he has since, to use the mobile-order term, exploded. The young, suave, really groomed rapper is about to embark on a 33-city Must Be Nice tour in the New Year but before he does, he'll take G-easy before a crowd he knows well. While his fanbase has swelled and he's been on many national tours, G-Eazy continues to profess his devotion to his origins. As he raps on the Vivian Girls-featured "Out Alive" *Lately try to flip me out/ buy me sushi at one show/but I don't fit in with the mainstream/ nun/so I guess that means we can't be down/Sorry, fools but I refuse to simply compromise my sound/I'll be up on my hella shit.* He'll perform at The New Parish (579 19th St., Oakland) on Thursday, Dec. 27. 8 p.m., $20. TheNewParish.com — *Lemiha Cruz*

Bornes

Plenty of bands try to capture





the desert rock sound, but tonal outfit Bornes gets us inspiration honestly. Two of the three members (Mike Marsella and Nick Nava) grew up in the desert and got their start in the Palm Springs band Solarfest, alongside ex-Kyuss/Evenbutler's Earl member Chris Cockrell. So although Bornes (also featuring drummer Jif Bowman) played its first show less than two years ago, the stoner metal band has already shared bills with the likes of VOD, Joe Rowe, and Black Cobra (at Noise Pop's metal showcase). Playing "heavy rock tunes for fellow drinkers," the band grows from the usual suspects — Sabbath, Hawkwind, St. Vitus, et al — but with the energy of a punk band. Bornes plans to record its debut album at Oakland's Barhammer Studios with Greg Williamson of Brainoil and Billy Anderson (former rock-a-go-go producer) in early 2013; in the meantime, catch the trio at the Hemlock Tavern (1131 Polk St., San Francisco) on Saturday, Dec. 29, with Tacoma, Washington's Louis. 9:30 p.m., $7. HemlockTavern.com — *Kathleen Richards*

Negativland

Best known for its cut-up tape

collages, for getting sued by U2 a label, and for its long-running KPFA radio show "Over the Edge" (started by band member Don Joyce in 1983), Negativland returned to playing live gigs this year after a long period of inactivity, appearing as Negativeblyblavelut at this year's San Francisco Electronic Music Festival. Its show on Saturday, Dec. 29, at The Uptown (1928 Telegraph Ave., Oakland) will feature members old and new and should be quite the repertoire beyond being a media prankster. Recent acts have involved Immaculate "Beeper" decaxe (granted by founding member David Wills (aka Tex Weatherman) back in 1975. Beepers are modified radios that generate feedback loops, making for an inherently improvised approach to making music — albeit music to the noise vein. In addition to working in sound collage, Negativland also dabbles in visual collage, works of which were featured in an art show this summer in Los Angeles. Three decades after forming in Concord, Negativland is in the interesting position of becoming crossover as an anti-establishment institution. 9 p.m., $15. UptownNightclub.com — *George Chen*

for dinner and show package. 11pm $100/$175 dinner and show package with midnight champagne toast, other dates: $95/ $40.

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

Jupiter New Year's Eve Wine Soiree w/ Sinéad Jupiter. 9 p.m. $10

New Year's Eve Party featuring The Modernics Ball Hard. 57th Street Gallery. 9 p.m. $40.

Rock & Pop

Forbidden Bones NYE Bash w/ Tim Jennings. Forbidden Bones. 9 p.m. $77

POPNYE Oracle Arena. 5 p.m. $40-$130

Soul, Funk, R&B, & Hip-Hop

Crybaby Ends w/ The Coup. 1a Theater. 9 p.m. $50-50 $75

New Year's Eve Soul Dance Party w/ Erica Johnson. Joe Yeye Fifty-five. 9 p.m. $70A

Oakland New Year's Big Band's Ball w/ Can Funk Shun and hosted by DC Shelly Wells & The Homemade Ellis Hustle. Oakland Masonic Temple. 6:30 p.m., $150-$300

World, Latin, Reggae, & Reggaeton

Aventura New Year's Eve Jammin Bash w/ Edenia. Bruno Menjivar. Joe Yeye & Lucky Diamond, and True Life Bar Ashemar. 8 p.m., $25 (includes champagne toast)

Fantasy Dance New Year's Eve 2013 w/ Pat Rincon Tropicana, DJ Tony D & Steve, a 12-piece band band and more, Treasure Island Event Venue. 9 p.m., $60-$650

New Year's Eve Dance Dance w/ Orquesta La Moderna Tradicional, La Pefia Cultural Center. 9:30 p.m. $25, $30

Reggae Jam Dance NYE New Kaliflower City. 9 p.m. $40

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk, & Country

Eric Frank & Friends w/ Sonny & The Sunsets, Roddy Slotz, Cave Canem, and DJ sets by Midnight Artist & Mr. The Chapel. 8:30 p.m. $25-$30

Hillbilly New Year's Eve w/ Windy Hill Playaz, and Stars. 9:30 p.m., $10-$15

New Year's Eve Bash w/ Tommy Dukes & The Pinchukers and Lost Dog Found. Mystic Theater. 9 p.m. $65

New Year's Eve with **John Lee Hooker Jr.** Rasputin & Band. 8 & 11 p.m. $50 $60

Pat Boone NYE Belasco Mission. 9 p.m. $45 $70

Sadhar and Amalia Rain w/ DJ selections by Raff Cavoli. Cafe du Nord. 9:30 p.m., $40

Holiday Music

New Year's Eve at Brazens w/ Nick Waterhouse, Island Cavaliers and Ben Hoe Band. Brazens and Gazette, Brazens 3rd Club. 8 p.m. $60

SF Symphony Presents a New Year's Eve Masquerade Ball w/ the San Francisco Symphony and other special guests and performers. Davies Symphony Hall. 9 p.m., $85-$185

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

Trombone Shorty & Trinidad Avenues The Fillmore. 9 p.m. $75

Rock & Pop

Doubleheed w/ a ballroom drop and Prince-esque tunes at midnight. Great American Music Hall. 9 p.m. $30

Twister w/ Blake Mills, The Independent. 9 p.m. $27 / SO YES

The Orchard Rock and Family w/ Get More Tube and special guests. Slash & Mortar Music Hall. 9 p.m. $15-$67.50

New Year's Eve Rock w/ Tasty Giants, Eryn Post Kill and Pins of Light. Hemlock Tavern. 9 p.m. $12

Son of Bruiser New Year's Eve 2013 Lamaze w/ Gojet Burbelle, Shpongle's Eclectic Masterpeace, The Orbit Mob, Featurette w/ Tapp's Umbrella, Ephland Darkness, Wu de Vee Society, Eclectic, Pumpkin, Robert DeLong, Cassava Morton, Worthy Mentor, Little John, Big Ed Heavy Ambush, Star, Plaza Via Farm, Syd Cats, Mel an Potion, Eric Stubber, Duke Vitz and more, Concourse Exhibition Center. 9 p.m. $75-$145

Talking Love The Regency Ballroom. 9 p.m. $50-$55

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C&C

Soul, Funk, R&B, & Hip-Hop

[illegible] **Parker's Funky New Year's Party** [illegible]

New Year's Eve w/ [illegible]

New Year's Eve Dynamite Soul Ruum w/ [illegible]

[illegible] **2013** w/ [illegible]

World, Latin, Reggae, & Reggaetón

New Year's Eve Oakland [illegible]

TUESDAY 1

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk, & Country

[illegible] Cajun/Zydeco dance [illegible]

Soul, Funk, R&B, & Hip-Hop

Innerspace Jupiter, 8 p.m. free

SAN FRANCISCO

Soul, Funk, R&B, & Hip-Hop

Eric Bolivar's Hangover Party featuring [illegible]

WEDNESDAY 2

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk, & Country

[illegible] Cafe Van Kleef, 9:30 p.m., [illegible]

Whiskey Bonnet [illegible], 8 p.m. free

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

[illegible]

World, Latin, Reggae, & Reggaetón

[illegible] dance [illegible] at 7 p.m. [illegible]

Caribbean Night with Reggae Flash and DJ [illegible], Oakland, Rooney's Lookout 11:15 p.m., free

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk, & Country

[illegible]

Jazz, Lounge, & Cabaret

[illegible]

Rock & Pop

[illegible] w/ [illegible] Hill, [illegible]

World, Latin, Reggae, & Reggaetón

[illegible]

Submissions for music listings should be emailed to Clubs@EastBayExpress.com or mailed to Clubs Editor, East Bay Express, 620 3rd St., Oakland, CA, 94607. Deadline is fourteen days prior to the event date.

VENUE DIRECTORY

EAST BAY

[illegible]

DJ & DANCE

WEDNESDAY 24

EAST BAY

2984 Candy w/ Bik Stars and Bass Mouth spinning indie and hipHop for girls who love gold, White Horse Inn, 9 p.m., $9 $7
The Jam Kitchen w/ DJ Sunshine and special guests Lake's Shakopee & Antidote, 9 p.m., free
The Jump Off: Hump Day Hip-Hop w/ Rye spinning hip-hop, Club 21 9 p.m., $5 $15
Gaslight Throwback w/ DJ Pee Rag, The Layover 6 p.m., free
Perspective Latin cowboy night w/ host Violeta Berah and live 7 p.m. $5-$15
Success resident Bik Soul Premos and Luscious and special guests spin hip-hop, deep house broken beat, spinning, dancehall, reggae and Brazilian rhythms, Ragged Inn & Lounge 8 p.m., free
Thrownerdz DJ terrible Timmy spins everything from 80s emo to punk and more, The 80s Strength like 90s, Mexicana's Saloon, 10 p.m. 2 a.m. free
Underground Soul Sessions spinning deep house and broken hip-hop, and R&B, the Art Bar and upstairs, 9 p.m. $5 before 10, $10 after

SAN FRANCISCO

Reggae Rave Wednesdays w/ DJs Busy B, Rico Dan and Dancehall Queen Jenny, top 40, reggae R&B & more Mills, 10 p.m., free
DJ Scando spinning chilled-out beats, retro-infused soul, underground hip-hop, & stripped-down Afro-fusion, Swig bar 8 p.m., free
Escape DJs spin hip-hop, R&B, reggae & club classics, The Delta, 10 p.m., free
Graduate Social Goes Reggae Soca The Knockout 4-9 p.m. free
Hiphop Wednesday DJs Strategy, Jumbi, & Herb Dope spin classics, hip-hop, reggae, funk, & soul, Skylark, 10 p.m., $5
Satellite w/ Rahzel, Jedi Mind Tricks, Apathy, and tobacco 10 p.m. $5
Stamina w/ DJs Nabo, Kimia and dancers spinning goth and death rock, Elbo Room 10 p.m., $5
Soul Flashback Showcase 5 p.m., $12

THURSDAY 25

EAST BAY

Body Language w/ DJs 3-Nom and Sure-Fi spinning 80s and 90s funk, soul, R&B and hip-hop, Lake's Taproom & Antidote, 9 p.m. free
reggae Quadrants w/ DJs Vivian Bonds and Sandro Franks, The Layover 10 p.m., free
Bass Fever w/ Sensual Seoul Sound spinning reggae & dancehall, Shadowroom Restaurant, 10 p.m. free
Bubblebox Thursdays Radio, DJ p.m. free
DJ Adel spinning eclectic mix variety, Ringside Lounge 9 p.m. free
DJ Phaul hosts 9 p.m., free
DJ Sonia spinning lounge, Lost Southern Lounge 5 p.m.-2 a.m. free
International Flight parties, spinning DJ the Job spinning Eastbound, French pop, dance hits soundtracks, Latin freestyle, garage, sexy lounge & exotica, Pantaleon's Island 9 p.m. free
Donovan Orno w/ Bik Bubby B Mr Wylie spinning Jamaican oldies and reggae, The Alehouse Lounge 10 p.m., free
HOT Ain't indie pop, mash-ups, new wave, Bam B 10 p.m. free
Jump Salsa w/ DJ Mr Shamus spinning hip-hop & R&B, Club 21 9 p.m., $12-$15
Tempo w/ DJ Matthew Sandoval spinning global house power hits While Horse Inn, 10 p.m. midnight, free
Ultra Vixen DJs Fuse, Soho One, and Wilde Mary play dance music across genres, Sonia Bar & Lounge, 9 p.m., free
Vydal Thursdays w/ DJ Hot Sw and guests spinning roots reggae and dancehall Continental Club, 9 p.m.-2 a.m., $5
Yoruba R&B/H Sessions featuring DJs Carlos Mercado, Eric Cook, Beech and live 6 p.m., free

SAN FRANCISCO

2984 80s Glamour, Indie, Dangerous Bar, & Morning Call spin 70s, & new wave, Cat Club 9 p.m. free before 9:30 p.m. $5
Afrobilicious w/ DJ Plantasaurus and Solo Rosa live Elbo Room, 9:30 p.m., $5
Bingolympics by Boom 53 Bam Ale during Bingo The Knockout, 7:30-10 p.m., free
College Night DJs Ulterior and Matt Jaworski spin hip-hop, Top 40, R&B, & more, The Delta, 10 p.m. free
Eth Bassana & Jamie spinning funky mixes & underground hip-hop, Swig free 9 p.m. free
Foxy at the Inn Mission, 9 p.m. free
Hip'n'Hana w/ guest live act, dance performances, & bubble, Bam Bar spinning sideway dance solos, underground SF 9 p.m. $5-$20
Highstars Weekly event for adults, with mocktails, craft kids, workshops, bounce activities, and rotating themes nightly. This week's feature is post Lollapalooza Geoff Trey O'Connor and Mikey the DJ California Academy of Sciences, 6-10 p.m. $12
Pacific Dustbirds Time featuring A Lyrelis, Kaiser Air Boy & Rena Gomez, Eve Bastille, 9 p.m. free
Yoruba rotating Bar, The Endup 10 p.m., $10
Trophisma (Live A/V Set) w/ Shlohmo, The Instrumentals, 9 p.m., $25
Stroopwafel: Latin Cocktail Night w/ DJs Ismael Dalma & Jon spinning dark electro industrial new wave & goth, Wedding ceremonies & confessions for all who want to be joined in unholy matrimony, Underground SF 9 p.m. $5, bow if you wear formal attire or formal makeup
Tropicana Night DJ Dee-Buscemi, Sr Sheez and guests spinning Salsa, Cumbia, Reggaeton and Merengue, Bazaarva Art Bar 9 p.m., free

FRIDAY 26

EAST BAY

Bam 21 w/ DJs spinning Latin music, Club 21 9 p.m. $5-$15
DJ Deft spinning top 40, dance, and hip-hop, White Horse Inn, 9 p.m. free
DJ Lisa Bunny The Layover 9 p.m. free
DJ Yoruba w Frank Jones Happy Hour w/ Chickenhead hip-hop soul & funk, Parkway Lounge 5-9 p.m. free
DJ White Mass Service Bar & Lounge 9 p.m. free
Kanna Primary rotating DJs spinning hip-hop, R&B and reggae, New Parkway Club 9 p.m. $1 admission until 1 a.m.
Escape w/ DJ Jiko The Layover, 10 p.m., free
Friday Night Room w/ guest DJs spinning Latin, La Ermita Cafe, 10 p.m. $5
Friday Nite Jams w/ DJ Supa K, Forem, 10 p.m. $5
Kama Era Art Bar and outside, 9 p.m., $TBA
Friday Hours w/ DJ Yoruba Cuban spinning punk, rock-n-roll & soul rock, The Hillsoul Lounge 6-10 p.m. free
Hip-Hop Karaoke Dance w/ Naked DJ, Club 1720 9 p.m. $5
Yoruba Shook w/ DJ Boy Wonder, Service Bar & Lounge 9 p.m. free $5 cover after 11 p.m.
Latin Explosion DJ Jorge Bonilla spins merengue, salsa, merengue, bomba, Spanish pop, & house, Fiddler and Bar, & p.m. 2 a.m. $10 $15
Mandala weekly in-house DJ whim Amarylis Music 9 p.m. free
Nu Ship Shapes The New Parish, 9 p.m. $10
Old School hip-hop and funk, Studio, 9 p.m. free
Reggae Night w/ DJ reggae spinning reggae, soca, salsa, & R&B, Island Paradise Club, 10 p.m. ladies free dance 11-2:30 a.m.
Retro Fiction Rooftop board beats R&B, hip-hop, Knapman's Lucky Jackson, 9 p.m. free
The Spanish Cocktail w/ Reggie Mike spinning tropical, afro-rhythms, cumbia, guaguancos, salsa reggae moombahton, & dembow, The Missouri Mission, 10 p.m., free
Swirly Fridays DJ Leah & Pat Rich spin R&B & soul, Kimball's Carnival, 9 p.m., $5
World Beats Fridays spinning DJ Tropic spinning jamaican, beats Yoruba salsa, merengue, dancehall reggae, Chemistry dance music, & more Congo nation, 10 p.m.

SAN FRANCISCO

Beatfloats and Selectated Ms Agitation, Ian Mash, and Lauryeah spin punk, hardcore and oi-core, Pop's Bar, 10 p.m. 2 a.m. free
DJ Danny Garapin spinning rock, hip-hop, new wave R&B '80s, indie, & pop, Swig Bar 9 p.m. free
Dos Tramas and Guiasis Elbo 6 p.m., free
Fame Hip-hop karaoke night, rotation by DJ White Castle & dancer Precious, SHCA, 9 p.m. free
Fashionable DJ No. 19 p.m., free
Hatchback Friday DJs Scotty Fox, Derrick D, MC'D & Chelsea Scratch spin 80s and Hip-Hop, The Cellar, 10 p.m., free before 10 p.m. $10 after
Fridays at the Fort Gibbs w/ DJs Cannon and Miranda spinning soul, funk, and world, Elbo 6-9 p.m. free
Discotastique rotating DJs, The Endup, 10 p.m. $15 free before midnight
Bar Pants w/ DJs Carmen Bart Holmes, Vice Dee' & special guest spinning '90s, electro, hip-hop, & R&B, Cat Club, 9 p.m. $5
Whisk Me Now w/ DJs Sasaki, Mr Bond, & Sam Frank spinning hip-hop, dance alternative grunge & reggae, Madrone Art Bar 9 p.m. $5 after 9 p.m.
dance dance w/ DJ Tom Thumb and guests, Make-Out Room 10 p.m. $5
Dubstep 2012 dance w/ Rahzel Emanuel, Stanley Frank, and more dance Weeks, 8:30 p.m. $10
Fuka Kumi International Fly Sagal and Marco spin reggae, dancehall, hip-hop soul & R&B, The Knockout, 9 p.m. $5
The People's Party w/ old school Hip-Hop and First Friday Laser beats by the Wrecking Crew Elbo, 10 p.m. $5 p.m., free

PICK

Zeds Dead

Dubst (may be usual and plays out but the party rages on. This long New Year's Eve weekend starts at The Mezzanine (witje Market St., San Francisco) on Friday Dec. 28, with Zeds Dead and Adventure Club — two acts that may ride out the dubstep trend because they tend to avoid gimmicky bass drops. On Zeds Dead's recent remix of The Prodigy's 1996 single "Breathe" the Canadian duo expertly uses spiral, bouncy electro beats that still have the fuzzy edge of wobbly bass. Even on its remix of Blue Foundation's "Eyes on Fire," one of the biggest dubstep tracks of 2012, the duo creates a wall of bass that's well balanced with melodic glitch, and shattering chiptune (those noises that sound like video games) Zeds Dead also doesn't shy away from pop music, having remixed Deagonette. Thus fear and even Aretha Franklin. Below Canadian outfit Adventure Club, which has remixed Metric and Tamper Trap, brings a similar electro-meets-bass sensibility to its set. 9 p.m., $27.50, $45. TheWarfieldSanFrancisco.com — *Whitney Mattern*













DOD

Project Mayhem w/ Ian Toth, dancehall, Liam Sky Atom Ina, DJ Mantis, the Warmonger spinning Sundays DNA Lounge, 9 p.m. $5-$15

Distinctively celebrating the sound of low budget synthesizers, Eastern European Cold War dance pieces, & the more experimental dusky and danceable side of '80s punk. 222 Hyde Every 8 p.m. free

Bob Jeach (DJ set) + Thievery Corporation Recommended and Abstinence, Public Works, 9:30 p.m. $13-$15

Strictly Vixens spinning, VIP's Sundays Wicked session every night | 111 Minna Street Gallery, $3-$10

SATURDAY 29

EAST BAY

All Productions & Hoodsnipe Biz spinning R&B & hip-hop. Forza. 10 p.m. free

Laugh & New Wave DJ Tropic spins Videos '80s new Coogs Lounge, 10 p.m., free

Side Kimchee + DJ Rent Biz guests spinning hip-hop & R&B beats and live DJ 9 p.m. before 11 p.m.

Women Seeking Men Club 1220 8 p.m. $5

Vibes Flow Presents: Embrace the Art L.A.W.S. + Pib Rally Acevedo and Roy Rohlen, live music and Flowers, Oregon Fonda 2 p.m. free

La Boite Loca Latino cowboy night w/ DJs Sandoval, Mella, Jarrett, & friends' jaw, hot guys sequence, Club 21, 9 p.m. $5-$10

Last Saturdays w/ DJ Lord Sewboy dish mixes Lost Bmor, hip-hop, this music, White Horse Inn, 9 p.m., free before 9 p.m. $5 after

Hippie Hop Vixen DJ Prime & guests Ball gown-swing extravaganza, Ringman's Lucky Lounge 9 p.m., free

Swagga Saturdays rotating hip hop/ House hip-hop, neo soul and Bmor flavors, Lulu's taproom & Lounge 10 p.m. $5 before 11 p.m. $10 after

Lumora Ela Act Bar and Lounge, 9 p.m. $10

Thump + DJ Kenzel spinning dancehall, funk, house, and Lost Sonido the & Lounge 9 p.m. $5

Tortured Soul w/ Shake de Shad-Love and DJ Bonsen The New Parish, 9 p.m., $17-$20

SAN FRANCISCO

BACKBEACH DJ Gmor, & Jose reggae line, 9 p.m. $5-$10

Club Everywhere w/ DJ Shag Sundays the hottest Gay Asia club hits, Jillian's, 10 p.m., free before 11 p.m. and vouchers

El Rio Sex Party Bar 9 p.m. free

G-Superstition! w/ DJs Sundays Bonsen reggaeton, salsa, dancehall, and world dance-pop. Make-Out Room, 10 p.m., $5

Love Burridge w/ host Ben Seaglan, and more Public Works, 8:30 p.m. $12-$25

Paris Before Entertainment DJs Sugar Me Mamo spin reggae, dancehall, hip-hop, soul & R&B Lush Lounge, 9 p.m. $5

Para Estrellas + rotating DJs including Pablo Soto, Los Caballeros Sing, and more | 3115 Folsom Highway, 9:30 p.m. 3 a.m. $5 | Bmor

Seduction w/ DJs Sundays hip-hop and club hits. The Cellar, 9 p.m., free beach 10 p.m. $10 Bmor

Smashers DJs Bmor, Bonsen Bmor & Ben Rhythm spin disco and soul beach Asia, 10 p.m. $10 free beach 11 p.m.

Sous Asia The Warfield, 9 p.m., $35-$275

SUNDAY 30

EAST BAY

The Mamie w/ Tatiana cultivar Key Celeste and DJ Z Soup Dry Art Bmor and Lounge 9 p.m. | $3 p.m. free

Dedicated @ **the Bar** + Love all-record, all-dedication night with DJ Painmaster, Ashes Cafe 5-8 p.m. free

DJ Bandy Kingman's Lusty Lounge, 9 p.m. free

Mag at Magic Organ Sundays spinning reggae, dancehall, the lovers rock with resident DJ Smoky The New Parish, 10 p.m. $10 free for ladies before 11 p.m.

La Veganista Brunch and Bay 9 p.m., $5-$8

Bonsen Cal Art Bar and Lounge, 9 p.m. $10

Dabble Pam's Sea Sundays the spin she, beach-baby & works reggae. The Happy Valley Club, 2 p.m. free

SAN FRANCISCO

The Mission w/ DJs Sap and Lashbrats the guest Dub Smackz Elbo Room 9 p.m., $5

Bubbling Fire DJ Service & guests spin reggae & dancehall. Underground SF 9 p.m. free before 10:30 p.m. $5

Honey Soundquest + Honey Soundquest the lightning dance music, Paradise Lounge, 9 p.m. $3 after 11 p.m.

NYE at the Warfield feat. Pretty 20 The Warfield 9 p.m. $47.50-$75

Soulebrities! Dante Jakity w/ Selby grooves The dancehall, 10 p.m. free

MONDAY

EAST BAY

Bay Bo Love NYE 2012 w/ Skate @ Vibe, Ky Kaan, and Ramone Lulu's Taproom & Lounge 9 p.m. $12

Downtown Nights w/ Ms Sang the Lulu Bmor spinning world reggae Latin, and hip-hop Samurai Bar & Lounge, 10 p.m., free

Kahana Monday The Lawyer 8 p.m. free

New Year's Eve beach and Bar 9 p.m. $500-$600

Reggae NYE Ball w/ Rebelution, DJ Cali, and TJ Cecil; hosted by Amy Nahoug and beyLove The New Parish 7 p.m. $30-$50

Three-Day Shindown DJ Peacock Runner opens Bmor Downtown, Lulu's Sundays & Lounge, 9 p.m. free

Underground Lounge psychic 80s & punk 70s music Public, 10 p.m.-2 a.m. free

More Listings Online
Get info about hundreds of musical events at EastBayExpress.com
or m.EastBayExpress.com

SAN FRANCISCO

2012 San Francisco NYE International Ball Palace Hotel, 9 p.m. $75-$1,295

Hooks Down w/ Mr. Mo spinning gothic, industrial, symphony music, Blmsbat, and weird stuff, DNA Lounge, 9:30 p.m., $3 $5

DJ Skate Sundays Hooked Soul rare grooves, & downtempo, Swig Bar 9 p.m. free

The Extravaganza NYE Ball 2013 w/ Allend Rydlle, DJ Soulr MC3 and more Apollolic 9 p.m. $75-$40

Eye&Ear&SF presents Insects of Bad Francisco NYE 2012 w/ A-Trak, DJ Bmor, and SAM ISAACs, Prescott Pavilion, 9 p.m. $45 and up

Fatbackpack + Soul Slinger, Holly Bmor, Lowriderz, and much more, 1935 Folsom Nightclub 9 p.m. $5

Indie Tuesday DJ Bmor & guests spin hits and remixes from the '70s to today, Underground SF 10 p.m. free

MMMK w/ STILL DOING, Public Works, 9 p.m. $10

Modern House soul, funk, hip-hop, reggae Brazilian Afrobeat, & more Little Baobab, 10 p.m. $3

Midnight in Paris The Regency Ballroom, 9 p.m. $85-$250

Prom Locker w/ DJ Orlando plus Orlando Cole Cesarina, 7:30 p.m., $5, Bonsen, $10

Soho Soul Soho Vixen spinning new wave, Fighting, like mafia, Free champagne Bonsen at midnight, Skate Bmor 9 p.m., $10, $18

Soho Years Eve 2013 at The W Bmor, full premium open bar, Soho midnight, Bmor DJ Skate, live saxophone dancer of Bmor, seven SF live Saxophone Trio #10, hip-hop, hot naked, electric, beach and more, W Hotel, 9 p.m. $150

NYE 1984 free champagne toast at midnight and values raising by Mark Anthony Mix Jon Hopkins, Mighty 9 p.m. free

NYE 2012 Hedonpool Bathwomb/ Sundays Party red carpet entry midnight champagne toast open bar, plush booth with props, complimentary party favors, Secondary VIP guests hosts, go-go Tabbaza and more, Harbor Restaurant & Lounge, 9 p.m. $30-$75

NYE 2013 Aboard the SS Jerusalem 9 Bmor w/ Jazz Mafia feat. DJ Kevin and DJ Ryan, SS Jerusalem Bmor, 9 p.m., $TBA

NYE 2012 at Seasons w/ DJ Jubilee, Blmsbat, 8:30 p.m. $60-$150

NYE at The Bmor, The Cellar, 9 p.m. $25-$600

NYE at the Warfield feat. Primus 30 The Warfield 8 p.m. $47.50-$75

NYE Bmor + Erk the Jerk, Steve Lan, and DJ Double B hosted by Ray J, Slim's, 9 p.m. $65-$125-$200

NYE Klassbox 2012 w/ 9 the midnight champagne toast, live video mixing, 2 dance floors, and more Pure 56 Skate Union Square 9 p.m., $40 and up

NYE Time Square Ball DJ Manny Sundays hip-hop dance and top 40 music, Marea West, 9 p.m. $40

The New Bmor NYE 2013 w/ Pink Mammoth Phoenix hotel 9 p.m. $50

Radical Vocal 2 rocking sets of live spoken ables, punk psych, country and hip-hop, 49 Bo 8 p.m. 11 p.m.

Runway Nole Years Eve 2013 w/ Skate Rekke, Miguel Migs, Collette and DJ Heather vocalist Lisa Skate and Adam Pape Mezzanine, 9 p.m. $60-$80

Skyfarking + Bmor Mr. Lucky & Blmsbat spinning indie rock, dancehall, and reggae, Skylark, 9:30 p.m., free

Spirit Sessions w/ Bmor MAMamas, Hungi Fu Elvis, 9 Cabaret Mercantile feast, cold hip-hop, '80s boogie, jazz, Lusa Bmor Mezzanine, Asbest Top 10 p.m., free

Sunset & Stomp NYE Party w/ MASTIK, Sol Stomp, and more, Public Works, 9 p.m. $20-$25

Table Knell NYE DJ Set w/ DJ Q-Bmors Mansion Steamer 9 p.m. $40-$80

Wild Night free **NYE 2013** w/ Megamixmo, DJ Tempo Money DJ X-Ray and more The Fantasy 9 p.m., $75 the up

TUESDAY

EAST BAY

DJ Stomp Sundays punk, Late Weekend Lounge 9 p.m. 2 a.m. free

Funky Situation w/ DJ Someone RC Sundays funk, reggae, Motown, Bonsenfunk, Balkan beat, dirty south, grime Bonsen hip-hop salsa and dub Bmor, The Layover, 10 p.m. free

Love Bmor Loud Bmor Bonsen Bmor 9 Lounge, 9 p.m., $TBA

Soul Fyah + Jamb G Mac rotating guests spinning, reggae, dancehall, Mix Africa rhythms, Lulu's Sundays & Lounge, 9 p.m. free

Stay Funky w/ DJ Soulmate spinning indie, punk, hardcore, & metal, The Blmsbat Lounge, 10 p.m., free

SAN FRANCISCO

Skate Up Josh Warner Shelter 9 p.m. Josh Vest, Miller & Joe Hollenbeck reggae, dancehall, hip-hop 9 p.m. Free before 11 p.m. Milk, 10 p.m. $5

Bio Bench & Flesh spinning European beats, underground hip-hop, 9 alley grooves, Swig Bar 9 p.m. free

Lord & Found-Boogie & Sweat '80s Soul Make-Out Room, 9:30 p.m. free

Old-School Hip-Hop w/ DJ Mouse Love Bonsen 9 p.m. $3

Phobos Front + Skate w/ free hips, Cabaret 9 Rekke, plus MC Ruth, Masterpeace SF 9 p.m. $5

The Place Nole Double Smoove rotating Mr Mouse plus DJ Whamchinski 9 Pain Sundays punk rock 80 Bmor Lounge, The Knockout, 10 p.m. $8

Soulful: Orchestra Ritz-Carlton, 9 p.m. $15

Socrates + DJs Chicken Scratch Sonic Fire, Derrick B MOD & guests spinning hip-hop and early '90s hip-hop, The Cellar 10 p.m., free

DIFFERENT STROKES

A boy on the side, a third-wheel dyke, and pee-seeking Canadians.

By Dan Savage

I just started an intense relationship with a guy who has a boyfriend. This guy and I have such other. However he is uncomfortable with me meeting his boyfriend. I've asked if it's okay that we're fucking, and he said they're in an open relationship so it's okay. I asked if it's okay that we're in love, and he said yes. So why the secrecy? My lovers only explanation is that his boyfriend doesn't want to know about the guys he fucks around with. The whole situation is starting to make me uneasy. I can't figure out why I want to know more about his boyfriend. Is it so I can verify that he's not cheating or that jealousy is an issue for them and that's why I can't meet him? I do know that I wish my lover would be more open with me. Should I just relax?

The Other Person

Monogamous couples have one rule about fucking other people — "don't fuck other people" — but nonmonogamous couples have all sorts of different rules. TOP and sometimes a particular couple's particular rules make it hard for a third to verify that the partnered person he's sleeping with is, in fact, in an honest and healthy open relationship.

That said, most couples with a "don't want to know about the other people you're fucking" rule — and that's a pretty common rule — also have a rule against getting emotionally involved with the other people they're fucking. So it's against the rules for the guy you've been seeing to introduce his boyfriend-the-side to his boyfriend. TOP odds are good that swapping "I love you" with his boy on the side is against the rules, too.

Someone is being lied to here. Either this guy is lying to you about being in an open relationship or he's lying to his boyfriend about not getting emotionally involved with the other guys he fucks. Whichever it is, TOP. I don't see a future for you with this guy — or much of a future for him and his boyfriend, frankly.

But to answer your question: No. TOP don't relax. DTMFA.

I'm a feminist submissive dyke. My girlfriend is absolutely amazing and our sex life is awesome and really kinky. The problem is two of my friends. We formed a pretty tight trio with two hot, funny guys. I've got tiny manageable crushes on them both. My girlfriend knows, but she's secure enough in our relationship that she isn't bothered by it. The problem? My friends are fucking each other. They're also in happy open relationships with other women. Sounds great, right? Even though they're great friends most of the time, they definitely leave me feeling like the third wheel once in a while. How can I gently remind them that even though they're not sleeping with me I'd like a little more platonic attention/friendship wise?

Satisfied Under Watches

I suppose you could sit your friends down and say "Hey, when you two move out of your friends in open relationships with benefits honeymoon phase I could use a little more friends without benefits attention. But there's almost no way to say that without coming across like a jealous, controlling bag of dykenuts. SUW. So I would urge you to hang back and trust that this honeymoon phase, like all honeymoon phases will eventually pass, and those two friends will have more time for you in the future.

In the meantime, fuck your girlfriend lots and hang out with other friends. And remember: When you're feeling like the third wheel, SUW, it's because you're probably functioning as the third wheel. While first and second wheels can make an effort to prevent thirds from feeling like the thirds they are, thirds that make a decision to roll elsewhere generally wind up feeling better.

I'm a Canadian 25-year-old gay man in a four-year relationship with a 22 year-old. Over the course of our relationship, we've explored each other's kinks and been very understanding and GGG. The sex is amazing and varied. The problem: He has this fantasy that I'm having trouble pulling off. He wants me to piss in his ass. But peeing a little erect is not my forte. I've tried, but I have to concentrate on peeing to actually go, and that just resulted in my going soft while I was inside him. By the time the urine was actually flowing, my dick was so soft that his sphincter was actually pinching my urethra closed, making it impossible for me to pee. He hasn't bottomed in a couple of years, since I realized how much I love it, so I'm assuming his tightness isn't helping. I just can't think of a hot way I can do to fulfill this fantasy for him. Do I need to just learn how to pee while erect or is there an easier way? I'm stumped and worried I won't be able to make this happen for him.

Dripping Out Urine Confounds His Enema

I'm going to assume that you two are in a committed relationship that you've both been tested and have either no STIs or the same STIs that neither of you is having unprotected sex with anyone else that you rarely eat asparagus or beets that you don't plan on doing this in front of/on/at/to, etc.

Okay, DOUCHE. I feel like Santa Claus right now because I have the perfect toy to put under your tree. (Your tree is still up, right?) Go to FartTrafficcom, click "Enter," search "ass tunnel" then watch the video demo. It's an after-Christmas miracle. (For the skin in the ass readership that links it NSFW. And yes, I'm assuming DOUCHE and his BF celebrate Christmas. But only because all the piss-in-asses I've ever known were homeschooled Liberty University graduates.)

Happy holidays everybody! ●

Find the Savage Lovecast (my weekly podcast) every Tuesday at TheStranger.com/savage

mail@savagelove.net





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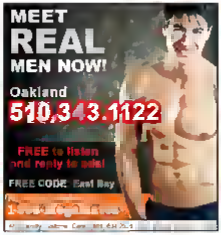
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APN: 940-1829-356-00 TS No: CA09001451-13-1 TO No: 130090 NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED 06/2006. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDINGS AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER. On 01/07/2013 at 10:00 AM, First American Trustee Servicing Solutions, LLC as duly Appointed Trustee under and pursuant to Deed of Trust Recorded on 06/20/2006 as Instrument No. 2006218497 of official records in the Office of the Recorder of ALAMEDA County, California, executed by: GK JIN PARK, AN UNMARRIED WOMAN AND JI YOUNG PARK, AN UNMARRIED WOMAN AS JOINT TENANTS, as Trustor(s), in favor of AMERICA'S WHOLESALE LENDER as Lender and MORTGAGE ELECTRONIC REGISTRATION SYSTEMS, INC. as nominee for Lender, its successors and/or assigns as Beneficiary WILL SELL AT PUBLIC AUCTION TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER, in lawful money of the United States, all payable at the time of sale that certain property situated in said County, California describing the land therein as: MORE FULLY DESCRIBED IN SAID DEED OF TRUST The property heretofore described is being sold "as is". The street address and other common designation, if any, of the real property described above is purported to be: 5 COMMODORE DRIVE #1207 EMERYVILLE, CA 94608-1645 The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address and other common designation, if any, shown herein. Said sale will be made without covenant or warranty, express or implied, regarding title, title possession, or encumbrances, to pay the remaining principal sum of the note(s) secured by said Deed of Trust, with interest thereon, as provided in said note(s), advances, if any, under the terms of the Deed of Trust, estimated fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee and of the trusts created by said Deed of Trust. The total amount of the unpaid balance of the obligations secured by the property to be sold and reasonable estimated costs, expenses and advances at the time of the initial publication of this Notice of Trustee's Sale is estimated to be $254,022.71 (Estimated), provided, however, prepayment premiums, accrued interest and advances will increase this figure prior to sale. Beneficiary's bid at said sale may include all or part of said amount. In addition to cash, the Trustee will accept a cashier's check drawn on a state or national bank, a check drawn by a state or federal credit union, or a check drawn by a state or federal savings and loan association, savings association or savings bank specified in Section 5102 of the California Financial Code and authorized to do business in California, or other such funds as may be acceptable to the Trustee. In the event tender other than cash is accepted, the Trustee may withhold the issuance of the Trustee's Deed Upon Sale until funds become available to the payee or endorsee as a matter of right. The property offered for sale excludes all funds held on account by the property receiver, if applicable. If the Trustee is unable to convey title for any reason, the successful bidder's sole and exclusive remedy shall be the return of monies paid to the Trustee and the successful bidder shall have no further recourse. Notice to Potential Bidders If you are considering bidding on this property lien, you should understand that there are risks involved in bidding at a Trustee auction. You will be bidding on a lien, not on the property itself. Placing the highest bid at a Trustee auction does not automatically entitle you to free and clear ownership of the property. You should also be aware that the lien being auctioned off may be a junior lien. If you are the highest bidder at the auction, you are or may be responsible for paying off all liens senior to the lien being auctioned off, before you can receive clear title to the property. You are encouraged to investigate the existence, priority, and size of outstanding liens that may exist on this property by contacting the county recorder's office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge you a fee for this information. If you consult either of these resources, you should be aware that the same lender may hold more than one mortgage or deed of trust on the property. NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNER The sale date shown on this notice of sale may be postponed one or more times by the mortgagee, beneficiary, trustee, or a court, pursuant to Section 2924g of the California Civil Code. The law requires that information about Trustee Sale postponements be made available to you and to the public, as a courtesy to those not present at the sale. If you wish to learn whether your sale date has been postponed, and if applicable, the rescheduled time and date for the sale of this property, you may call 714-730-2727 or visit the Internet Web site at www.fidelityposting.com using file number assigned to this case 20090025. Information about postponements that are very short in duration or that occur close in time to the scheduled sale may not necessarily be reflected in the telephone information or on the Internet Web site. The best way to verify postponement information is to attend the scheduled sale. FOR TRUSTEE SALE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL AGENCY SALES and POSTING 3210 EL CAMINO REAL, SUITE 300 IRVINE, CA 92602 714-730-2727 www.fidelityposting.com NDEx West, L.L.C. MAY BE ACTING AS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. P1096811 12/ 2, 2/ 9/ 12/26/2012

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On 01/10/2013 at 09:00 AM, First Legal Investor Room at 525 Market Street, 26th Floor, San Francisco, CA, 94105, MTC FINANCIAL INC dba TRUSTEE CORPS, as the duly Appointed Trustee, under and pursuant to the power of sale contained in that certain Deed of Trust Recorded on 01/20/2006 as Instrument No. 2006020497 of official records in the Office of the Recorder of ALAMEDA County, California, executed by: CHEUNG KIT LEE, AN UNMARRIED WOMAN AND JI YOUNG PARK, AN UNMARRIED WOMAN AS JOINT TENANTS, as Trustor(s), in favor of AMERICA'S WHOLESALE LENDER as Lender and MORTGAGE ELECTRONIC REGISTRATION SYSTEMS, INC. as nominee for Lender, its successors and/or assigns as Beneficiary WILL SELL AT PUBLIC AUCTION TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER, in lawful money of the United States, all payable at the time of sale that certain property situated in said County, California describing the land therein as: MORE FULLY DESCRIBED IN SAID DEED OF TRUST The property heretofore described is being sold "as is". The street address and other common designation, if any, of the real property described above is purported to be: 6400 EMERYVILLE DRIVE #1205 EMERYVILLE, CA 94608 The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address and other common designation, if any, shown herein. Said sale will be made without covenant or warranty, express or implied, regarding title, possession, or encumbrances, to pay the remaining principal sum of the note(s) secured by said Deed of Trust, with interest thereon, as provided in said note(s), advances, if any, under the terms of the Deed of Trust, estimated fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee and of the trusts created by said Deed of Trust. The total amount of the unpaid balance of the obligations secured by the property to be sold and reasonable estimated costs, expenses and advances at the time of the initial publication of this Notice of Trustee's Sale is estimated to be $307,334.64 (Estimated), provided, however, prepayment premiums, accrued interest and advances will increase this figure prior to sale. Beneficiary's bid at said sale may include all or part of said amount. In addition to cash, the Trustee will accept a cashier's check drawn on a state or national bank, a check drawn by a state or federal credit union, or a check drawn by a state or federal savings and loan association, savings association or savings bank specified in Section 5102 of the California Financial Code and authorized to do business in California, or other such funds as may be acceptable to the Trustee. In the event tender other than cash is accepted, the Trustee may withhold the issuance of the Trustee's Deed Upon Sale until funds become available to the payee or endorsee as a matter of right. The property offered for sale excludes all funds held on account by the property receiver, if applicable. If the Trustee is unable to convey title for any reason, the successful bidder's sole and exclusive remedy shall be the return of monies paid to the Trustee and the successful bidder shall have no further recourse. Notice to Potential Bidders If you are considering bidding on this property lien, you should understand that there are risks involved in bidding at a Trustee auction. You will be bidding on a lien, not on the property itself. Placing the highest bid at a Trustee auction does not automatically entitle you to free and clear ownership of the property. You should also be aware that the lien being auctioned off may be a junior lien. If you are the highest bidder at the auction, you are or may be responsible for paying off all liens senior to the lien being auctioned off, before you can receive clear title to the property. You are encouraged to investigate the existence, priority, and size of outstanding liens that may exist on this property by contacting the county recorder's office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge you a fee for this information. If you consult either of these resources, you should be aware that the same lender may hold more than one mortgage or deed of trust on the property. NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNER The sale date shown on this notice of sale may be postponed one or more times by the mortgagee, beneficiary, trustee, or a court, pursuant to Section 2924g of the California Civil Code. The law requires that information about Trustee Sale postponements be made available to you and to the public, as a courtesy to those not present at the sale. If you wish to learn whether your sale date has been postponed, and if applicable, the rescheduled time and date for the sale of this property, you may call 714-730-2727 or visit the Internet Web site at www.fidelityposting.com using file number assigned to this case 20090025. Information about postponements that are very short in duration or that occur close in time to the scheduled sale may not necessarily be reflected in the telephone information or on the Internet Web site. The best way to verify postponement information is to attend the scheduled sale. FOR TRUSTEE SALE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL AGENCY SALES and POSTING 3210 EL CAMINO REAL, SUITE 300 IRVINE, CA 92602 714-730-2727 www.fidelityposting.com NDEx West, L.L.C. MAY BE ACTING AS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. NDEx West, L.L.C. as Trustee Dated: 11/05/2012 A-4337237 12/12/2012 12/19/2012, 12/26/2012

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE Trustee Sale No.: 20100305004025 Title Order No.: 10043810 FHAVA/PMI No.: YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST, DATED 08/11/2003. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDINGS AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER. On January 24, 2013 at 09:00 AM, 3rd Floor Lobby/Elevator Room at Stanwich Real Estate, 1547 Lakeside Dr, Oakland, CA 94612, MTC FINANCIAL INC dba TRUSTEE CORPS, as the duly Appointed Trustee, under and pursuant to the power of sale contained in that certain Deed of Trust Recorded on 08/20/2003 as Instrument No. 2003268 of official records in the Office of the Recorder of Alameda County, California, executed by: GREGORY R MILLER AND MARSHA J TREADWELL, HUSBAND AND WIFE AS JOINT TENANTS, as Trustor(s), in favor of WASHINGTON MUTUAL BANK, FA as Beneficiary, will sell at public auction to the highest bidder, in lawful money of the United States, all payable at the time of sale, that certain property situated in said County, California describing the land therein as: MORE FULLY DESCRIBED IN SAID DEED OF TRUST The property heretofore described is being sold "as is". The street address and other common designation, if any, of the real property described above is purported to be: 6400 EMERYVILLE DRIVE #1205 EMERYVILLE, CA 94608 The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address and other common designation, if any, shown herein. Said sale will be made without covenant or warranty, express or implied, regarding title, possession, or encumbrances, to pay the remaining principal sum of the note(s) secured by said Deed of Trust, with interest thereon, as provided in said note(s), advances, if any, under the terms of said Deed of Trust, estimated fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee and of the trusts created by said Deed of Trust. The total amount of the unpaid balance of the obligations secured by the property to be sold and reasonable estimated costs, expenses and advances at the time of the initial publication of the Notice of Sale is $455,202.74. The beneficiary under said Deed of Trust has executed and delivered to the undersigned a written Request for Sale dated 10/26/2012. Upon Demand for Sale, and a written Notice of Default and Election to Sell. The undersigned caused said Notice of Default and Election to Sell to be recorded in the county where the real property is located. NOTICE TO POTENTIAL BIDDERS If you are considering bidding on this property lien, you should understand that there are risks involved in bidding at a trustee auction. You will be bidding on a lien, not on the property itself. Placing the highest bid at a trustee auction does not automatically entitle you to free and clear ownership of the property. You should also be aware that the lien being auctioned off may be a junior lien. If you are the highest bidder at the auction, you are or may be responsible for paying off all liens senior to the lien being auctioned off, before you can receive clear title to the property. You are encouraged to investigate the existence, priority, and size of outstanding liens that may exist on this property by contacting the county recorder's office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge you a fee for this information. If you consult either of these resources, you should be aware that the same lender may hold more than one mortgage or deed of trust on the property. NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNER: The sale date shown on this notice of sale may be postponed one or more times by the mortgagee, beneficiary, trustee, or a court, pursuant to Section 2924g of the California Civil Code. The law requires that information about trustee sale postponements be made available to you and to the public, as a courtesy to those not present at the sale. If you wish to learn whether your sale date has been postponed, and if applicable, the rescheduled time and date for the sale of this property, you may call 714-730-2727 or visit the Internet Web site at www.fidelityposting.com using file number assigned to this case 20100305004025. Information about postponements that are very short in duration or that occur close in time to the scheduled sale may not necessarily be reflected in the telephone information or on the Internet Web site. The best way to verify postponement information is to attend the scheduled sale. FOR TRUSTEE SALE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL AGENCY SALES and POSTING 3210 EL CAMINO REAL, SUITE 300 IRVINE, CA 92602 714-730-2727 www.fidelityposting.com NDEx West, L.L.C. MAY BE ACTING AS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. NDEx West, L.L.C. as Trustee Dated: 11/05/2012 A-4337237 12/12/2012 12/19/2012, 12/26/2012

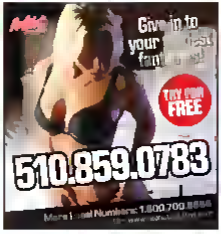


















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